

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Polish Armed Forces: Political  
Indoctrination, Troop Information  
and Education

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# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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**POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION AND TROOP INFORMATION  
AND EDUCATION IN THE POLISH ARMED FORCES (C)**

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POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION AND TROOP INFORMATION AND  
EDUCATION IN THE POLISH ARMED FORCES (C)

Introduction

[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

[REDACTED] the controlling element responsible for the political indoctrination and troop information and education among armed forces personnel was the Main Political Administration for the Polish Armed Forces (Główny Zarząd Polityczny Wojska Polskiego - GZPWP), an agency of the Ministry of National Defense (Ministerstwo Obrony Narodowej - MON).

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Geographic Coordinates</u>	<u>UTM Coordinates</u>
BRZEG (BRIEG)	N50-52, E17-27	XS-7437
KOZLE	N50-20, E18-10	BA-9780
LESNO (LISSA)	N51-51, E16-34	XT-0845
ZAGAN (SAGAN)	N51-37, E15-19	WT-2218

1. The Main Political Administration of the Polish Armed Forces  
(Główny Zarząd Polityczny Wojska Polskiego - GZFWP)

a. Mission

The Main Political Administration of the Polish Armed Forces was a department of the Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party (Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza - PZPR), established by the Central Committee for conducting Party-political work in the armed forces of Poland. It was responsible for the ideological and political education and conviction of all armed forces personnel of Marxist principles and the spirit of Communism. It organized, directed and controlled Party work in the military services, and the political education of all members of the armed forces.

b. Location

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The GZFWP was located on Ulica Krakowskie Przedmieście in WARSAW, near the square called Plac Zwycięstwa

c. Organization

(1) Ministry of National Defense Level (Ministerstwo Obrony Narodowej - MON)

At MON level, the GZFWP was organized into a Party Committee and three departments, which were further divided into branches and sections. See Annex A for an organizational chart. The director of the GZFWP was Brigadier General Janusz ZARZYCKI, First Vice Minister of National Defense and a member of the Central Committee of the PZPR. He was assisted in the execution of his functions by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Jozef MALKO, who assumed that position in 1955. MALKO was the working head of the organization; he directed the functioning of the GZFWP office and subordinate organizations, and directly under his control were the chiefs of the three departments.

The Party committee of the Polish Armed Forces at the directorate level was headed by Colonel STARZEK (fnu). The committee, through Party Committees on military district and division levels, insured that pure Communist ideology and principles were taught and maintained in the armed forces; it was the highest authority on Party organization and Communist ideology in the Polish armed forces.

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In addition to the above, the director's office included an adjutant who was an administrative assistant to the director, accompanying him on all trips and performing such functions as directed.

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(a) Department I - Organization (see Annex A-1)

This department was responsible for the internal Party organization in the Polish armed forces. It was composed of three branches - Organization, Party Records, and Party Work Inspection - and was headed by Brigadier General Lech KRZEMIEN until 1955 when he joined the United Nations team in Korea as a Polish delegate. [redacted] no one was assigned to replace KRZEMIEN upon his departure; the responsibilities of the chief of Department I were assumed by MALKO, who, up to April 1958, was performing them in addition to his own duties as chief of staff. Functions of the three branches were as follows:

1. Branch I - Organization

This branch controlled the development of the Party organization with respect to the number of members. In determining how many would be released or accepted within a given period, it gave consideration to the class background of the personnel serving in the armed forces, and regulated the number of persons joining the Party ranks on the basis of a percentage of each class that could be allowed without jeopardizing Party control or decreasing its efficiency. The branch also was responsible for the functioning of the Party organization at military district level, and it answered to the Party Committee for matters concerned with Party finances. In the Branch there were six functional sections and a classified records section which were responsible for the following:

a. Party Committees Section

This section organized Party work of the Party committees located at military district and division levels. It was divided into two groups, one of which was concerned with Party committee secretaries at district and division level; this group received its guidance directly from the Party committee at MON level. The other group was responsible for organizing Party work at district, division, and regimental levels. The section sent out representatives to the units to observe how Party secretaries and members of the Party committees fulfilled their functions, and it made appropriate recommendations for improving the Party organization and raising its level to a higher standard. The section insured that extant directives were being implemented and adhered to.

b. Organization Section

The organizational responsibilities mentioned in paragraph 1c(1)(a)1 above were performed by this section.

c. Party Schooling Section

This section planned, organized, and controlled the ideological schooling of Party members on the following subjects which pertained to the development and growth of the Party: history, program, statutes, Communist philosophy, and political economy. Such schooling was organized at all levels in the Polish National Army, the degree of instruction varying with the level at which taught. For example, the Party program,

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history and statutes were taught to privates and NCOs, as well as to prospective Party members, both officer and enlisted. On the other hand, arrangements were made for instruction of officers who were Party members at regimental to ministry level who desired additional instruction in some particular subject or subjects. For high ranking officers in a leadership capacity (but not necessarily limited to this category of individual) the section organized branches of the Evening Universities of Marxism-Leninism (wieczorowe uniwersytety Marksizmu-Leninizmu).

These evening schools of Marxism-Leninism were four-year schools conducted only at district and ministry level Officers' Homes (domy oficers), the highest category of officers' clubs. Only officers who were Party members were permitted to attend. At each established school there was a library director, who planned courses according to directives issued by the GZP, prepared schedules for the classes, and arranged for instructors.

The classes were primarily of two types, lectures and seminars. Minimum requirement for attendance was 2 evenings within a 14-day period; each evening period lasted four to five hours and was planned at least six weeks ahead, and consisted of lecture-type instruction, which was mandatory. In addition, four nights per week were scheduled for seminars (konsultaty) at which open discussions were held on a specific subject assigned for that evening.

The subjects taught at the classes, and which were also bases for the seminars, are shown below; under the main topics are shown sub-topics in order to furnish an idea of the scope of the subject matter covered.

#### History of World-Wide Worker Movement (historia ruchu robotniczego)

- Conditions Leading to the Beginning of Communism
- Origins of the Communist Party, Theoretical and Ideological
- Communist Tactics (analysis of the 1905 revolution)
- Theoretical-Philosophical Principles of Party Materialism and Imperial Criticism (imperjo-krytycyzm) (sic)
- The State and Revolution
- Works by Marx
- Works by Lenin
- Works by Stalin

#### World History

- Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome
- Origin of a Country and Formation of a Nation
- The Economic and Cultural Development of Countries
- Formation and Changes of Borders
- Reasons for War

#### Political Economy

- Capitalist Political Economy
- Socialist Political Economy
- Economic Structure of a Communist State

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**Communist Philosophy**

Historical Materialism (Engel's Works)  
 Origin of Living Organisms  
 Religion (where it started, beliefs, aims)  
 Background of Families and the State  
 The Origin and Substance of War

**Dialectical Materialism**

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The classes and seminars centered around an examination of problems, from a Communist point of view, concerned with economics, politics, history, nature, and philosophy. Basically, dialectical materialism incorporated the following four points: everything in the world is in continual movement, change, and development; in substance there are changes from amount to form, and from form to amount; from differences of opinion comes progress; and new ideas and concepts lead to progress, and old ideas and concepts fall by the wayside.

**Philosophic Materialism**

Discussions in this area centered around the fact that the world is material and this fact is recognized by the people; the subject negates the existence and belief in God and supernatural acts.

The professors who were hired to conduct the classes and seminars were those who taught at established universities; they earned 40 to 46 zlotys per hour for their evening participation. Upon graduation from an evening school of Marxism-Leninism, a student received a diploma indicating successful completion of the particular area which he studied. Diplomas presented were for the following: General Economics (spoleczno-ekonomiczny); Philosophic-Economy (filozoficzno-ekonomiczny); and General Philosophy (spoleczno-filozoficzny).

**d. Progress and Statistics Section**

On the basis of the percentage of the various classes of military personnel that it was felt should be contained in the Party (intelligentsia, workers, peasants, and tradesmen), this section analyzed and determined the number of officers and enlisted men who should either be accepted into, or released from, the Party.

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It was mandatory that there be a preponderance of the working class, at least 50 percent, 35 to 40 percent peasants, and the remainder composed of the remaining classes. On the basis of recommendations submitted by this section, the chief of the GZP made the final determination of the number, by class, who would be accepted or released, and issued instructions to the chiefs of the three departments accordingly.

**e. General Section**

This small section consisted of two or three people who assisted the department director in the administrative functioning of the department.

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f. Finance Section

The Finance Section obtained monthly, from the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Party payment stamps (znaczki skladek partyjnych), which were sold to Party members in the armed forces as a medium of collecting dues. The amount of money a member paid for his monthly stamp depended on the amount of pay he received. The stamps were accountable and the regiments were required to forward the money collected to division by the fifth of the month; divisions forwarded their collections to districts by the seventh of the month, and districts to the GZP by the fifteenth. Between the twentieth and the twenty-fifth, the GZP turned in the receipts to the Central Committee and obtained new stamps for the following month.

g. Classified Records Section

Although this section was attached to Branch I, it handled all the classified material for Department I. It transmitted incoming and outgoing classified correspondence and maintained appropriate files.

2. Branch II - Party Records

This branch was responsible for the maintenance of Party records at every operational level on each member of the Party serving in the armed forces. The responsibility for maintaining these records at the various levels was executed by the following six sections:

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a. MON Central Institutions Section

This section maintained records of personnel assigned to the Ministry of National Defense's so-called "central institutions" such as the Polish General Staff, Military Political Academy, Military Technical Academy, General Staff Academy, GZP, and others.

b. Navy Section, Air Force Section, Silesian Military District Section, Pomeranian Military District Section, and Warsaw Military District Section

These five sections were responsible for maintaining records of Party members assigned to their respective areas of responsibility. Each section maintained a folder on each military Party member assigned within its area of jurisdiction. The folder was divided into two parts - an "official section" and a "non-official section." The official section contained all correspondence of an official Party nature pertaining to the individual, including the following: personal history form, personal history statement prepared by the individual in his own handwriting, application for Party membership, recommendations from two Party members supporting approval of the individual's application for Party membership, certificate of acceptance into the Party submitted by the Party committee which accepted the applicant, and the individual's acknowledgment of receipt of the Party pass book (legitymacja partyjna).

The non-official section of the folder contained the following: record of punishment, awards and decorations, commendations, background investigations; and character and efficiency reports.

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JNP ✓ The folders were used as a basis to determine an individual's suitability for performing in a higher capacity. In all cases where he was considered for promotion or for a higher TOE position, the personnel section of the next higher headquarters would obtain a Party opinion from the GZP regarding the considered individual's ability to perform in the higher status. This opinion was based on the contents of the individual's folder. The folder was also made available to trial counsels in cases where a person was being tried by court-martial. Between November 1956 and April 1957, all folders were screened and all derogatory information previously furnished by the Security Administration (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa - UB) and the Counter-Intelligence Corps (Główny Zarząd Informacji) was removed.

### 3. Branch III - Party Work Inspection

N ✓ This branch consisted of the following four sections: MON Central Institutions Section, Ground Force Section, Air Force Section, and the Navy Section. It was responsible for the analysis and over-all control of the Party and political work in the armed forces. It furnished personnel to committees and formal inspection teams which were responsible for determining the effectiveness of the political and Party work in an organization. Individuals so selected were called "inspectors"; in the organizations inspected, they held meetings at which individuals were chosen at random and questioned at length regarding Party-political instruction received, and in this way it was determined how effective such instruction had been.

### (b) Department II - Propaganda and Agitation (see Annex A-2)

Headed by Brigadier General Jozef BLUM, this department planned, organized, controlled, and conducted the political work extant in the armed forces in the fields of propaganda, agitation, culture, enlightenment, and journalism. It was also responsible for the general (non-political) education of the armed forces. It consisted of three branches. Propaganda and Agitation, Culture and Enlightenment, and Press. [redacted] described as follows:

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#### 1. Branch I - Propaganda and Agitation

This branch was headed by Lt Colonel ZAMOJSKI, (fnu). It planned, organized and controlled propaganda and agitational activities in the military units, and was responsible for the issuance of materials used during instruction, such as manuals, brochures, and summaries. It also issued and controlled such training aids as photograph albums, drawings, sketches, maps, and Visicast slides. [redacted] information on the following sections which composed the branch was as follows:

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##### a. Propaganda Section

This section planned in advance the ideological and political education of all armed forces personnel, setting forth the days and hours when specific instruction would be given. In its educational principles it considered propaganda as an instrument used to convince the military community of the plausibility and acceptability of the ideas of Communism, dividing this instrument into four primary fields of activity in its application. The first of these was the long-lasting system of education and conviction which was carried out by instruction and arranged discussions; it incorporated slow step-by-step education and convincing of the armed forces and extended over a period of years. It was far-seeing and far-reaching. The

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second field was the propaganda-agitation field, which centered around the systematic awakening and concentration of an individual's interest on a particular subject, irrespective of what the subject matter might be. Films, periodicals, books, and the theater were used for this purpose. The third field devoted itself strictly to agitation and concerned itself with the effective and startling presentation of a subject to effect immediate acceptance and agreement. The last field was visual propaganda, which contemplated holding before the public eye such factors as the enmity of groups of individuals toward a particular individual, principle, idea, action, or country; sympathy toward the USSR and satellite countries; and the unity of the Party. Placards, drawings, posters, and any other method adaptable in the visual presentation of concepts or ideas were used for this purpose. In essence, it was the visual dissemination of propaganda concerned with all possible political problems. none of the previously mentioned means used for propaganda generation was considered more effective than others; all were accepted, used, and tied in with its aims. However, the film and the book were the most powerful single instruments and played the greatest role.

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In fulfilling its responsibilities for the political education of all military members, the section made appropriate recommendations to the chief of GZP concerning the levels at which specified types of instruction should be given, during which days of the week it should be held, and the number of hours that should be devoted to each subject. Upon approval of this program, this information was promulgated by the chief of the GZP, and was included by the General Staff in its yearly schooling plan, which set forth the total number of hours to be devoted to political instruction.

All personnel were required to receive this political instruction, and preparation on the part of each individual before attending class was mandatory. Any infractions in preparation for the class or nonattendance were treated in the same manner as those in cases of nonadherence to regulations. If a person was found guilty he was fined or punished.

#### b. Agitation Section

In the propaganda-agitational field, this section was responsible for organizing agitational groups of lectures at platoon and company level, and among staff personnel. In each company there was a minimum of eight agitators, selected by the Party committee, who were responsible for presenting to the members of the company such political points as the regimental political officer or the Basic Party Organization Secretary (see paragraph 3 a (2)) felt should be stressed among the soldiers. These agitators were soldiers who were required to perform this agitational work in addition to their normally assigned duties; they were more intelligent, better disciplined and trained individuals, especially selected for this purpose.

At regimental and higher level, certain political and line officers were selected to work in the agitational field. The mission of this non-TOE group of instructors was to take advantage of current developments detrimental to foreign powers, and information which increased the prestige of the Polish armed forces, by publicizing them among service personnel. If there was a lack of such information, effort was made to publicize Poland's achievements in the agricultural and economic fields. Each instructor had to be a Party member and was required to give a lecture at least once every three

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months in some unit, or to some civilian group, in order to keep up his instructional ability. It was felt that these low-level instructors were closer to the enlisted man and had a greater influence over him, whereas the services of political officers with their specialized training would be more effective among personnel of a higher caliber. Films, posters, drawings, periodicals, newspapers, and any other medium which lent itself to agitation or the dissemination of propaganda were used by these instructors.

c. Officer Section

This section was responsible for insuring that the officer corps of the armed forces received sufficient and proper political instruction. As previously indicated, generals and colonels of higher staffs studied at designated branches of the evening university of Marxism-Leninism. The remainder of the officers in the service were divided into two groups, depending on their assignment and at what level they were serving. The first of these groups was called the Commander's Group; it included the staffs of divisions and regiments, and battalion commanders. The second group was the Chief of Staff Group, and it included the commanders of companies and platoons, and staff officers of a lower rank who possessed a minimum education or in some cases were not efficient in the performance of their assigned duties.

The lectures presented to the group consisting of general officers were presented by university professors and experienced political officers. In the other two officer groups, the lectures were conducted by political officers who were selected from the level from which the officers came. The instructors teaching the lower level groups were given special instructions and brought up-to-date on the latest instructional techniques at a three-day meeting held once every two months, according to the GZF plan.

d. Enlisted Section

With a mission similar to that of the Officer Section except that it applied to the enlisted ranks, this section insured that sufficient political instruction was furnished by dividing the enlisted ranks into three groups. The first of these included all career noncommissioned officers. All the remaining enlisted personnel were divided into two groups according to their number of years of service. The first of these latter two groups was composed of recruits with less than one year's service, and the second group consisted of those who were in their second year of service.

In the noncommissioned officer career group, the lectures were conducted by selected political officers or selected line officers. To the remaining enlisted personnel, instruction was given by company platoon commanders.

e. Families Section

This section was responsible for work with the families of officers and career noncommissioned officers. It organized and assisted the League of Women (Liga Kobiet) in giving guidance and instruction in such matters as morals, personal hygiene, handling of personal affairs, education, and raising children. The league showed children's films frequently, and arranged many group functions, dances, and other family entertainment at officers' clubs. In this work with the families, every opportunity was taken to tie in politics and the Party.

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f. School Materials

This section was responsible for furnishing school materials and training aids required by the instructors designated at the various levels to furnish political instruction in the propaganda-agitational field. It also arranged for those items needed by the League of Women in its work with families.

g. General Section

This section assisted the chief of Branch I in the administrative functioning of the branch.

## 2. Branch II - Culture and Enlightenment

This branch was responsible for the culture and enlightenment of the armed forces. It planned, organized and controlled such activities through the network of the various grades of officers' clubs, and the enlisted men's dayrooms (reading and writing rooms - swietlice zolnierskie) in the units. In the execution of this responsibility it utilized military district entertainment teams, which were established on a TOE basis, and such MON artistic-cultural entertainment organizations as the Theater of the Polish Army and the Song and Dance Team of the Polish Army. Through these establishments and entertainment media, it propagated culture, enlightenment, and the arts to all levels and grades of personnel.

a. Officers' Clubs and EM Dayrooms Section

This section was responsible for the Party work conducted in all officers' clubs and enlisted men's dayrooms. It also assisted clubs in organizing their activities and preparing programs of forthcoming events which included the following: artistic displays; theater group and song and dance group presentations; orchestras; lectures on Poland, history, politics, culture, music, the theater, and the arts in general; organization of outings, indoor and outdoor sports, dances, films, and other forms of entertainment.

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Each club director was required to prepare weekly, monthly, and quarterly schedules of forthcoming activities and submit them to the next higher headquarters for approval. Although these schedules were inspected and ultimately approved, and the activities were inspected by members of this section, only about 30 percent of the activities forecast were successfully carried out at division level, while at regimental level they were totally ineffective. At military district and higher levels the club programs were very effective.

In each company and battery there was a building set aside for enlisted personnel, which was comparable to a dayroom. The building was known as a "swietlica" and was the center of all EM off-duty activities, such as newspaper reading, letter writing, games (billiards, ping-pong, chess, and checkers), radio listening, and playing musical instruments. At least two times per week these dayrooms were used to present political instructions to the EM; the sessions lasted about one hour and the subjects were presented by both officers and noncommissioned officers. Although the lectures were not mandatory, the duty officer, on the evenings when "dayroom work" (swietlica praca) was scheduled, fell out all the men in the area and required them to be present during the presentation.

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The dayrooms were poorly furnished and equipped. They were used by only about 20 percent of the personnel, except during the evenings when political presentations were scheduled and about 80 percent attended. One wall of the room was devoted to photographs of top political and military figures such as GOMULKA and SPYCHALSKI, the oath of allegiance, political and military mottos, and the symbolic Polish eagle. Another wall contained propaganda articles on Poland prepared by the EM on their own time. These articles, generally, compared Poland's progress with the progress of other countries in the fields of industry, agriculture, and economics. A third wall contained similar articles, but they reflected the USSR's progress rather than Poland's. On the fourth wall were pinned human interest stories, articles of life in the service, results of field tests and firings (artillery, tank, and small arms), best unit awards, sports pictures, and pictures taken during training and maneuvers.

In addition to the literature on the walls, the dayroom contained a small library, which included primarily Soviet literature and books relating to the WW II eastern front, personal and unit experiences during that war, brochures on Western spying activities in Poland, and political brochures. It also contained the last six months' issues of the newspapers Zolnierz Wolnosci, Trybuna Ludu, Zolnierz Ludu (a military district paper), Zolnierz Zwyciestwa, and others [redacted]

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As previously mentioned, there were such games as chess, checkers, ping-pong, and miniature pool tables. The musical instruments were violins, accordions, trumpets and clarinets. Most dayrooms had radios; those that did not were to be supplied with one as soon as possible. The radios were of the long-wave type; short-wave sets were not permitted.

#### b. Libraries Section

This section determined that the libraries at military installations were well supplied with books and political literature. It conducted surveys to determine the types of books read most, and adjusted the book supply accordingly. It controlled the reading material read by the armed forces by preparing lists of books which were permitted to be stocked by the libraries. [redacted] before October 1956, books written in the West were not stocked, but since then diversified reading had been stressed to include books from all countries. The only current limitations imposed were on books which were detrimental to the progress of Communism, and those which contained pornographic material.

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#### c. Entertainment Section (Wydzial Artystyczny)

This section was concerned with the organization, schooling, and establishment of programs for artistic groups such as the Theater of the Polish Army, the Song and Dance Team of the Polish Army, and military district entertainment groups. It assisted military district and garrison clubs in arranging artistic presentations and obtaining necessary materials when requested. The senior instructor of the political sections at district and division level was the censor and approving authority of presentations contemplated at their respective clubs.

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d. Enlightenment Section (Wydział Oswiatowy)

Along cultural lines, this section planned enlightening discussions (pogadanki oswiatowe), brochures, photograph albums, and posters, and disseminated them to units at all levels. Members of the section visited the clubs and assisted in the cultural education of personnel in the services.

e. Schooling Section

The mission of this section was the systematic schooling of officers who were engaged in cultural-educational activities. It conducted a refresher course (kurs doskonalenia) for directors of clubs and libraries, and simultaneously conducted courses for career noncommissioned officers who worked in the clubs as decorators, artists, librarians, and projector and PA system operators.

f. General Section

This section assisted the chief of Branch II in the administrative functioning of the branch.

3. Branch III - Press

[redacted] the following sections [redacted] composed this branch: foreign affairs, internal affairs, military affairs, economic affairs, illustrations, political literature, and a general section which was concerned with the administration of the branch. [redacted] chief of the branch, [redacted] up to 1956 this position was held by Colonel FRIEDMAN, (fnu).

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The branch prepared and printed the military newspapers, illustrated papers, and periodicals read by the armed forces, and, in the printing shop which it controlled, it printed all the political material distributed to all levels in the armed forces for instructional purposes.

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The reporters and editors assigned to the branch were officers of the armed forces. Civilians were also employed; they operated the presses and worked in other capacities [redacted] in some cases [redacted] they were also hired as writers and reporters.

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The following material was among that which was printed by the branch: Zolnierz Wolnosci, the illustrated weekly Zolnierz Zwyciestwa, Polityczny Miesiecznik [redacted] and Zolnierz Ludu, which at one time had been called Mysl Wojskowa. This latter publication, Mysl Wojskowa, was prepared and issued by the General Staff of the Polish Army.

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Of the materials issued for reading by the armed forces, the illustrated papers had the greatest appeal and interest. Each officer was required to subscribe to Zolnierz Wolnosci, and either to Zolnierz Ludu or Trybuna Ludu. Division commanders pressed that all officers subscribe to Mysl Wojskowa, but this was not mandatory; most did, however, because it

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contained much good information. Each officer was also required to subscribe to a monthly pamphlet pertaining to his branch of the service, which was issued by MON. The titles of some of these publications [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] were Przegląd Artyleryjski, Przegląd Wojsk Pancernych i Zmechanizowanych, Przegląd Inżynieryjny, Przegląd Kwatermistrzowski, Przegląd Wojskowy, 50X1-HUM  
Przegląd Chemiczny, Przegląd Uzbrojenia, Przegląd Wojsk Lotniczych, and Lekarz Wojskowy.

(c) Department III - Supply and Personnel (see Annex A-3)

This department was responsible for the assignment of political officers at all levels of the Polish armed forces, and the maintenance of personnel files to determine such assignments. The director was Colonel STOMPER, (fnu), who replaced Colonel ALSTER, (fnu) in 1955 or 1956. The department was composed of three branches - Personnel, Officer Schools, and Supply. [redacted] these branches were designated numerically as in the case of the other departments of the GZP. [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] 50X1-HUM

1. Branch I - Personnel

The director of the department was also the director of this branch [redacted] The branch maintained the most complete personnel files on all political officers (in comparison with the files on political officers maintained in the units and MON) and, on the basis of them, made assignments to all levels of the armed forces, and recommendations for promotions, decorations, and awards. It also furnished information to trial counsels in the courts-martial of officers. 50X1-HUM

All the sections composing this branch had similar responsibilities in their respective areas, which was the assignment of political officers. The MON Central Institutions Section assigned political officers to the GZP, the Central Officer's Home of the Polish Army (Centralny Dom Oficera, Wojska Polskiego), MON departments, MON Central Hospital, military academies, and the Theater of the Polish Army. The sections concerned with the three military districts, the navy, and the air force assigned political officers to regimental and higher units within their respective areas of jurisdiction. The General Section assisted the branch chief in the administrative functioning of the branch.

2. Branch II - Officer Schools

This branch was responsible for the realization of the programs and methods of political instruction at military schools. It approved and monitored the lectures, examinations, seminars, and discussions, and assigned political officers to school positions at all officer schools, both political and line, working in close coordination with the Personnel Branch.

a. Instructor Positions Section

This section was responsible for assigning the best-qualified political officers to school positions. It sent out screening representatives to the field to listen to lectures and determine whether the instructor had the potential for assignment to a school position. Upon determination that the individual could meet the requirements, action was taken to transfer him to a position which it was felt he could most capably fill.

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b. Analysis Section

This section was responsible for the methods of instruction used in military schools, and the programs existing at these schools. It analyzed the political instruction given and determined the percentage which was retained by the students, and by this means determined the effectiveness of such instruction. Representatives of the section continually visited the schools for the purpose of determining which method of instruction was most effective; they subsequently made recommendations which were the basis for revision of school programs at all levels in the armed forces.

c. Special Instruction Section (Wydział Lektorski)

This section was comprised of about 15 of the most capable, best-informed and well-rounded political officers in the armed forces. The officers visited schools in regimental and higher units and gave special instruction on delicate, important, controversial subjects established by the Central Committee of the PZPR, the General Staff, MON, or the GZP, such as the effect of Soviet political policy on Poland's political policy.

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3. Branch III - Supply

This branch was responsible for the planning, distribution, and accounting of expendable and nonexpendable items of supply used in political instruction at all levels of the armed forces.

a. General Section

This section assisted the chief of Branch III in the administrative functioning of the branch.

b. Nonexpendable Items Section

This section was responsible for forecasting, assigning, and controlling nonexpendable items of equipment used in political instruction and entertainment throughout the armed forces, such as projectors, cameras (normal and movie), musical instruments, radios, intercommunications equipment, games, and sports equipment. It also made arrangements for supplying clubs with required items of furniture, working in close coordination with the MON quartermaster service.

c. Expendable Items Section

This section forecasted and controlled the consumption rates of expendable items of supply used in political instruction such as lacquers and paints, clay, ink, paper, pencils, erasers, and cloth materials used for decorations.

d. Accounting Section

This section forecasted the budget for the GZP for the succeeding year on the basis of the troop strength planned for that year, and it accounted for the supplies used in political instruction by the military districts, MON entities, navy, and air force.

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## (2) Military District Level (See Annex B)

The deputy to the military district commander was also the chief of the political administration of the military district. The TOE position of the deputy district commander was that of major general. In the Pomeranian Military District, this position was occupied by Brigadier General Jozef URBANOWICZ, and in the Silesian Military District by Brigadier General KSIEZARCZYK, (fnu). The comparable position in the navy was filled by Captain Zenia ROMANOWSKI.

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Listed below are the designations of the components composing the political administration at military district level. The functions of these components were similar to those performed by their counterparts at the MON level. Also shown are the TOE space allocations and the ranks assigned these spaces. See paragraph 3c of this report for an explanation of the titles and responsibilities of the political officers.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Space</u>	<u>Rank</u>
<u>Control Group</u>		
Deputy District Commander	1	Major General
Deputy Chief of the District Political Administration	1	Colonel
Adjutant	1	First Lieutenant
<u>Party Committee</u>		
Secretary	1	Colonel
Deputy to the Secretary	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Instructor	1	Major
<u>Organization Branch</u> (See Annex B-1)		
Branch Chief	1	Colonel
Deputy Chief	1	(One of the section chiefs
<u>Party Organization Section</u>		
Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Instructor	2	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

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Progress and Statistics Subsection

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Schools and Inspections Section

Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
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Schools Subsection

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Inspections Subsection

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Party Records Section

Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Social Section

Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
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Social Subsection

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Families Subsection

Inspector (female - inspektorka)	3	Civilian
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Propaganda and Agitation Branch (See Annex B-2)

Branch Chief	1	Colonel
Deputy Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel

Officer Schooling Section

Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

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Enlisted Schooling Section

Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Special Instruction SectionSpecial Instruction Subsection

Senior Lecture Specialist	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Lecture Specialist	2	Major

Visual Propaganda and  
Agitation Subsection

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

Culture and Enlightenment Section

Chief	1	Colonel
Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	2	Captain

Clubs and Day Rooms Subsection<sup>1.</sup>Enlightenment SubsectionArtistic Groups SubsectionSupply Branch (See Annex B-3)

Branch Chief	1	Colonel
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General Section

Senior Instructor	1	Captain
Instructor	1	Second Lieutenant

Nonexpendable Items Section

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	Captain

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Expendable Items Section

Instructor	1	Captain
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Accounting Section

Senior Instructor	1	Major
Instructor	1	First Lieutenant

Personnel Branch

Branch Chief	1	Colonel
Deputy Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Instructor	2	Major
Instructor	1	Captain
Typist (female)	1	Civilian

Classified Records Office <sup>2.</sup>

Director	1	First Lieutenant
Administrative NCO	2	Master Sergeant
Clerk	1	Sergeant

Editorial Branch

Chief Editor (naczelnny redaktor)	1	Colonel
Deputy Chief	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Journalist	3	Major
	2	Captain
Photographer (fotoreporter)	1	First Lieutenant
	2	Civilian (female)

Printing ShopOfficers' Clubs Branch

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## (3) Division Level

At this level the political administration was composed of a political section which was responsible for the moral and political convictions of the individual soldier, and maintaining a high standard of morale and discipline. It planned, organized, and controlled the entire Party-political status of subordinate units, and it was responsible for the operation of the officers' clubs to include the organization of women's activities and work with families, primarily through the League of Women. Shown below is [ ] the composition of the political sections in the headquarters of the divisions and the regiments. It will be noted 50X1-HUM that there are no political officers assigned to companies or batteries with the exception of headquarters batteries and the NGO schools; [ ] the executive officers (zastepca dowodcy) assigned to these units were under 50X1-HUM the operational control of the political sections in political matters, and that they received continual guidance and assistance in activities in this area. In time of war, the political section at division level will consist of about 14 officers. At regimental level one officer will be added to the political section of the headquarters and one officer to each battery or company.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Space</u>	<u>Rank</u>
<u>Division Headquarters</u>		
Deputy to the Division Commander for Political Matters; Chief of the Political Section	1	Colonel
Senior Instructor	1	Lieutenant Colonel
	2	Major
Instructor	1	Captain
<u>Regimental Headquarters</u>		
Deputy to the Regimental Commander for Political Matters	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Instructor of Propaganda	1	Major
Secretary of the Basic Party Organization (Podstawowa Organizacja Partyjna - POP)	1	Major
<u>Other Division Units</u>		
<u>Division Headquarters Battery or Company</u>		
Deputy for Political Matters	1	First Lieutenant
<u>NGO School Headquarters</u>		
Deputy for Political Matters	1	Major

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NCO School Headquarters Battery

Deputy for Political Matters	1	First Lieutenant
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NCO School Instrument Battery

Deputy for Political Matters	1	First Lieutenant
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NCO School Firing Battery

Deputy for Political Matters	1	First Lieutenant
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Division Party Committee

Secretary	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Deputy to the Secretary; Senior Instructor for Organization	1	Major
Instructor for Party Records	1	Captain

## (4) Officers' Clubs

Although the officers' clubs were established to furnish officers and career NCOs with entertainment, they were also an excellent medium for imparting political instruction and propaganda, and consequently their activities were closely supervised by the political sections. In the Officers' Homes (Dom Oficera) and first and second category clubs,<sup>3</sup> there were usually political instructors assigned; where such individuals were not assigned, the officer in charge of the club was summoned by the political section periodically for a discussion of the club's activities and an orientation as to the approach to be used in integrating political material into the program.

In order to present what the political sections had to work with in imparting political education in the various types of clubs prevalent in the armed forces, and give an indication of the scope of their activities, following is information on the breakdown of personnel assigned to each category of club and a description of its activities.

<u>Type of Club</u>	<u>Space</u>	<u>Rank</u>
<u>Officers' Home (Dom Oficera)</u>		
Director	1	Colonel
Deputy Director	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Instructor of Propaganda	1	Major
Instructor of Culture and Enlightenment	1	Major

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Instructor of Entertainment and Culture (Instruktor Artystyczno-Kulturalny)	1	Major
Library Director	1	Captain
Projector-Radio Mechanic	1	First Lieutenant
Plastic Decorator	2 or 3	Master Sergeant
Storekeeper	1	Master Sergeant
Librarian (female)	1	Civilian
Cashier (female)	1	Civilian
Secretary (female)	1	Civilian
Instructor (for work with families)	1	Civilian (female)
Cleaning Woman	2	Civilian

In addition to the above, there were personnel working in the attached dining room, coffee shop, and University of Leninism-Marxism. On the premises there were an orchestra, a barber shop, a dentist's office, and a game room.

The club was the scene of constant activity and was open from 0700 to 2400 hours daily except Saturday and Sunday, when it remained open to 0400 the following morning, and Monday when it was closed all day. It was elaborately arranged, containing the best available equipment and furnishings. [redacted] its annual monetary allotment was 1,000,000 zlotys, [redacted] from its operations it netted about 500,000 zlotys yearly. It was well organized and operated, and was well frequented; however, because there were always high-ranking officers and political officers present, [redacted] most members felt uneasy for fear of the possibility that derogatory information might be included in their personal files.

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Officers' Club, Category I

Director	1	Colonel
Deputy	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Instructor of Propaganda	1	Major
Instructor of Culture and Enlightenment	1	Major
Projector-Radio Mechanic	1	First Lieutenant
Instructor of Entertainment and Culture	1	First Lieutenant

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Library Director	1	Captain
Plastic Decorator	1	Staff Sergeant
Storekeeper	1	Staff Sergeant
Librarian (female)	1	Civilian
Cashier (female)	1	Civilian
Cleaning Woman	1	Civilian

The club had a dining room, coffee shop, game room (billiards and ping-pong) and an orchestra, and in some cases a dentist and a barber. The library and coffee shop opened at 0900 and the dining room at 1400. The club was not as active as the Officer's Home, its major activities beginning about 1700 hours; it stayed open as long as there were members on the premises. It was closed one day a week, usually on Monday.

Officers' Club, Category II

Director	1	Lieutenant Colonel
Instructor of Propaganda	1	Captain
Instructor of Culture and Enlightenment	1	Captain
Library Director	1	Captain
Instructor of Entertainment and Culture	1	First Lieutenant
Plastic Decorator	1	Second Lieutenant or Civilian
Projector-Radio Mechanic	1	Master Sergeant
Storekeeper	1	Corporal
Decorator	1	Corporal
Fireman for the Central Heating System (Palacz centralnego ogrzewania)	1	Civilian
Librarian (female)	1	Civilian
Cashier (female)	1	Civilian
Cleaning Woman	1	Civilian

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[ ] in the club there was a dining room, buffet, and a barber shop. The club opened at 0800, and remained open as long as there were members present. It was closed one day a week, usually on Monday.

Officers' Club, Category III

Director	1	Major
Instructor of Entertainment and Culture	1	First Lieutenant
Library Director	1	First Lieutenant
Projector-Radio Mechanic	1	Master Sergeant
Plastic Decorator	1	Master Sergeant
Decorator	1	Corporal
Caretaker	1	Corporal
Librarian (female)	1	Civilian
Cashier (female, part time)	1	Civilian
Cleaning Woman	1	Civilian

In the club there were a dining room, buffet, and barber shop. The club opened at 0800, and remained open as long as there were members present. It was closed one day a week, usually on Monday.

Regimental Officers' Club

Director	1	First Lieutenant
Library Director	1	Sergeant
Projector-Radio Mechanic	1	Staff Sergeant

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2. Political Officer Schools

[ ] as of July 1958, there were only two active political officer schools in Poland - the Military Political Academy i/m Feliks Dzierzynski in WARSAW (Wojskowa Akademia Polityczna), and the Political Officers' School in LODZ. A third school, the Political Officers' Training Center (Ośrodek Przeszkolenia Oficerów Politycznych) had existed in MINSK MAZOWIECKI up to 1957, but was abolished.

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 The schools were subordinate to the GZP and were concerned with teaching primarily political subjects. Related material which ordinarily might have been included in political instruction under the Communist system, but was not, is shown below from a negative aspect along with comments concerning the means through which coverage of such material was furnished as follows: 50X1-HUM

Psychological and psychiatric instruction was not given at any of the political schools; however, related subjects were taught by biologists. Once a month for three days, political officers were required to attend a course of instruction organized by the deputy commander of the military district. During the course, 4 hours were taught by a biologist; this instruction was followed by a 2- to 3-hour discussion period, and was based on the following subjects:

Conditions Necessary for the Beginning of Life

The Beginning of a Living Cell of an Organism

Biological Structure of Man

Man's Nervous System and Its Comparison with That of an Animal

Man's Biological Changes and Reactions During Life

Reactions and Responses of the Individual to Sudden Changes  
 (shooting, explosions)

Interrelationship Between Individuals

Character

Effect of an Individual's Background on His Future

Pedagogy

Control of Personal Emotions

How to Evaluate Individuals and Groups (from the aspect of having them accept a principle or point of view)

Importance of Diversified Reading

Psychological pressures were not taught. After graduation, each political officer worked out his own psychological approach to people or groups, such as snubbing, handshaking, praising, and swearing. The techniques were up to the individual officer.

Prisoner of war interrogation procedures were not taught at the political schools; they were included in the instruction given by the Officer Intelligence and Counterintelligence School (Oficerska Szkola Informacji) in JABLONNA LEGJONOWO.

The use of drugs in any form was not advocated in breaking the resistance of prisoners. Subjects in political schools related to prisoner treatment were based on the premise that war is one system pitted against another, and not one individual against another, and consequently, prisoners should be treated courteously and humanely. It was felt that, after a prisoner had been released or had escaped, he would act as a propaganda instrument, attesting the fairness and correctness of the Communist system.

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Bacteriological warfare, and defense against it, was not taught at political schools; however, the subject was used for propaganda purposes in that information was promulgated which claimed that Americans used BW in Korea and would not hesitate to do so again if the need arose.

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Further, during a potato blight, about 1952, which started in Germany and spread east, it was claimed that a cause of the blight was bacteria dropped from planes. This so-called fact was published in a brochure, prepared by the General Staff of the Polish Army, which purportedly proved the allegation.

a. The Military Political Academy

(1) Mission

The academy's mission was to train political officers who would be capable of taking over the political sections at regimental, division, and military district levels, and to conduct refresher courses for political officers.

(2) Location

The academy was in the Krakowskie Przedmiescie District of WARSAW

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(3) Length of Course

The regular course lasted 3 years; however, a 1-year preparatory course was given students who met the minimum educational requirements but had been away from studies for a considerable length of time.

(4) Basis of Student Selection

A student selected for attendance must have met the following requirements: graduated from either the Political Officers' School in LODZ or the Political Officers' Training Center in MINSK MAZOWIECKI; worked as a political officer for at least 3 years; had no previous record of courts-martial, fines, or punishment; been an active Party member, industrious, sober, with all efforts directed to advancement of the Party line; be in good health; and had at least a high school education; however, this latter requirement could be waived in the case of an exceptionally outstanding officer. 5.

(5) Curriculum

The following subjects were among those which were taught at the academy:

Effects of Economy on Politics and Politics on Economy

Philosophy - Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin

Selected Historical Problems of Poland, USSR, England, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France, and Germany

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History of the Worker Movement - socialist ideas, factors existing before the origin of the Party, the Russian revolution, and the origin of the Party

Methods of Conducting Party-Political Work in the Armed Forces

Tactics - division level and lower

Map Reading

Weapons Systems

Organization of the Army - Poland's and those of other countries

Army Regulations

Leadership

(6) Conduct of Course

The course of instruction at the academy was very formal. Students received classroom instruction from 0800 to 1400 Monday through Saturday, and were required to spend an additional minimum of four hours of study each evening, except during weekends. After every 50-minute class they had a 10-minute break, and a 1-hour break at 1030 hours. Lunch was served at 1400 hours and supper at 1800. After 1400 on Saturday, the students were on their own time until 0800 hours the following Monday. Once each month, married officers were allowed to spend three days at home with their families, usually ~~on~~ Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

In the tactics and map reading portions of their instruction, students conducted many field trips and were assisted by first-order training aids, including elaborate sand tables with electrically-operated movable objects. Once each week, they attended a 2-hour seminar in the auditorium during which the national political situation was discussed.

Each student prepared and maintained a separate folder for each subject in the course, in which he kept all his working materials pertaining to that subject. These folders were checked once every two weeks for content as an additional aid in determining the students' progress in the course.

Infractions of rules were not tolerated; students exposing themselves to violations were subject to immediate dismissal.

The students felt oppressed because of the continuous concentrated course and study requirements. Weak students received all possible help to graduate; it was not a practice to set back a student to the following class - either he was carried through to graduation, or was released.

The instructional material for the academy was prepared by the Academy of Sciences (Akademia Nauk) in MOSCOW.

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**(7) Refresher Course**

The refresher course (kurs doskonalenia) conducted by the academy lasted from 9 to 11 months [redacted] in time). It was given to political officers filling higher TOE slots from the GZP to regimental levels; however, certain outstanding officers working in lower slots who showed promise, and were slated to take over political positions at higher levels, were also accepted for attendance.

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**(8) Effectiveness**

[redacted] the academy was too channelized in its teaching, because graduates [redacted] blindly followed the doctrines taught and [redacted] it was not permissible to have views other than those preferred by the Party. This was effective in graduating students who were avid Party advocates but whose effectiveness in the units was lost because they were considered too dogmatic by their associate line officers and enlisted men, and because there was too wide a gap between their fields of endeavor.

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The effectiveness of political instruction was determined by representatives of the GZP who visited units and heard lectures presented by political officers. Through this method, it was determined which points in political instruction should be stressed at the academy and the political school in LODZ. Periodically, the GZP would notify the schools of the date an instructors' conference would be held in WARSAW at the GZP headquarters, indicating by name those instructors who were to attend. During the conference the weak points of instruction were thoroughly covered, and instructions given for the remedial action to be taken.

**b. The Political Officers' School in LODZ****(1) Mission**

To train enlisted personnel and civilians in the political field and graduate them as political officers.

**(2) Location****(3) Basis of Student Selection**

Applicants who were high school graduates between the ages of 18 and 21, in good health, and members of some type of youth union or the Party, were eligible for the school. Applications for attendance had to be submitted on a voluntary basis. The school closed for about a year in 1948, and was reopened in the spring of 1949. Before 1948, only volunteers were accepted. When the school reopened in 1949, eighty percent of the students had been ordered to attend. After 1949, the school reverted to its original system of selecting students on the basis of voluntary submittal of applications, and remained so up to July 1958.

**(4) Student Body**

Up to December 1956, the school was composed of four year groups, each year group consisting of about 450 students. Following the issuance of a bill of the government presidium 26 March 1957 (number unknown) reducing the armed forces, many political officers gave up their commissions and left the service. The number was so great, and included so many trained political officers, that a great shortage of qualified political officers was created. Those who remained were either weak, or with little education. It was decided

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to screen all political officers to determine the capability of each in that field. Those who were found lacking were released from the service, and those who were capable or had potential were retained. Of this latter group, the better-trained officers were retained to fill vacancies left in the political slots in units, and the remainder was ordered to attend the Political School in LODZ.

Plans for this reorganization of the political apparatus had been drawn up by the General Staff under ROKOSSOVSKY in 1955, but the ~~Party Central~~ Committee would not agree to this action; however, after the October 1956 uprising when GOMULKA took over the Party leadership, and Major General Janusz ZARZYCKI, an advocate of a needed reorganization of the political system in the armed forces, became the director of the GZP<sup>W</sup>, it was decided to put the reorganization plan into effect. Envisaging the contemplated approval, the Political School in LODZ was closed in December 1956. Fifty percent of the oldest class in residence was graduated, and the remaining 50 percent, along with the second and third year classes, were promoted to sergeant and sergeant first class and reassigned to units. All the students of the fourth year group were released from the service.

Six months later, in June 1957, the school was reopened with a student body of about 2000; these students were the weaker political officers who remained after the reduction in force mentioned above, and who were considered in need of additional political schooling and training. The course was established for a 2-year period and was to end in July 1959. It was expected that graduation of these officers would furnish a sufficient number of political officers to fill the vacancies in all units.

After graduation in July 1959, the school was scheduled to close until November of that year, at which time it was to open again with a student body of about 350, and operate along its original lines with students taken from the ranks and from civilian life, attending on a voluntary basis. Civilian students were to attend a 3-year course and enlisted personnel a 2-year course. It was felt that the Military Political Academy and the Political School in LODZ would furnish sufficient political officers to meet the needs of the army, air force, and the navy.

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#### c. The Political Officers' Training Center

The training center was used for the political indoctrination of Polish officers and noncommissioned officers, while it was in existence, through instruction which lasted from three to six months. Upon successful completion of the course, noncommissioned personnel were awarded the rank of warrant officer (chorazy) and assigned to fill vacant political officer slots in the units. Basically, graduates were trained to augment the shortage of political officers in 1952 when Poland was preparing itself to meet emergencies which might have arisen as a result of the Korean conflict. The following subjects were taught by the center:

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The Organization of Party Work and Party Work Methods

History of the Worker Movement

Polish Politics and History

The Organization of Cultural and Political Education

The Aims and Mission of the Party

Geopolitics

3. Political Officers

All political officers in the Polish National Army were graduates of either a political school or a political course; however, in 1957 it was established that as of that year, all political officers must have finished either the Political School in LODZ or the Military Political Academy in WARSAW, and steps were taken to implement that mandate.

## a. Assignment After School

Upon graduating from a political officers' school, political officers were assigned by GZP to any of the three branches of the service, from GZP down to battalion level (in the case of separate battalions). Assignment was based on results attained at the school, aptitude, intelligence, and on observations made during schooling. Selection for the particular service to which an officer was assigned was based on the background of the individual during civilian life, his request for a particular branch, and the existing vacancies.

## b. Training After School

Primary training of the political officer after graduation was on-the-job training and through refresher courses. Each political officer, regardless of assignment, was required to give two lectures per week to military or civilian groups, and had to receive Party instruction. He received the maximum guidance possible from commanders and experienced political officers, and after about 3 years' service, it was mandatory that he attend a refresher course at either the Political School in LODZ or the Military Political Academy in WARSAW. Quotas for attendance were established throughout the armed forces, which could not be exceeded and had to be filled. Political officers were usually kept within the particular specialty in the political field to which assigned, but they could be reassigned to other areas on the basis of need.

## c. Types

- (1) Deputy to the Commander for Political Matters (Zastepca Dowodcy do Spraw Politycznych)

The deputy to the commander for political matters was second in command in the unit or organization to which he was assigned. The assignment of the deputy to the GZP was made by MON on recommendation of the chief of the GZP with Party Committee concurrence. The military district deputy was assigned by the GZP with Party Committee and MON concurrence, but if the Party Committee

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ONE / felt so inclined, it could assign the deputy at this level without consulting the GZP. The military district made assignments of the deputies to companies and battalions, and the GZP, with military district concurrence, made assignments to regiments and divisions. In the case of assignment to divisions, the Party committee concurrence had to be obtained; this was done on the military districts' recommendation, which was forwarded through the GZP to the Party Committee.

ONE / The deputy was equally responsible with the commanding officer for the moral-political status, battle readiness, discipline, tactical and political training, and education of the officers and enlisted men in the command. In addition, he directed the operations and was responsible for the effectiveness of the Party-political work of the political sections of his organization and subordinate units.

Since the Party-political organization was closely knit, in that all political officers were commonly bound by the political field, and the Party was a power in itself, a commander was generally forced to get along with his deputy. The commander did not have the power or right to discipline the deputy; in cases of infractions of regulations and misdemeanors, he could report the matter to the next higher headquarters where the commander did have disciplinary power and could take such action as he deemed necessary.

The commander and the deputy both had disciplinary powers by regulation. The commander could discipline all personnel within his command (except the deputy), and the deputy was authorized to discipline all personnel in the units subordinate to the headquarters to which he was assigned. By regulation, a deputy of lower rank holding a higher TOE position had the authority to give punishment to a higher-ranking officer who held a lower TOE position. It was generally agreed between the commander and his deputy that the commander would exercise his authority over the line officers in the command, while the deputy would restrict his power to cases involving only political officers.

On purely Party-political matters, deputies had the right to refer to higher headquarters through three channels: 1 - through the normal chain of command; 2 - through the political sections at higher headquarters; 3 - direct to the GZP, bypassing all levels of command. Any administrative action started by a deputy could not be stopped, but had to be resolved by the addressee. Commanders realized that the definition of what constituted a Party-political matter was within the purview of the deputy, and, for this reason, in many cases were forced to condescend and subjugate themselves to the deputy; otherwise, the deputy could always find something unsatisfactory in the unit, determine that it was the result of the lack of cooperation in carrying out Party policies, and refer the matter to higher headquarters.

## (2) Party Secretary

✓ A Party secretary was found at various levels in the Party structure in the armed forces. The Unit Party Organization (Oddzialowa Organizacja Partyjna - OOP) was the smallest Party organization in the armed forces and was found at all levels from platoon to the GZP. In the OOP, the position of secretary was filled by an individual selected by Party members of the OOP. His term of office in this non-TOE position was one year.

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In the next higher Party organization, the Basic Party Organization (Podstawowa Organizacja Partyjna - POP), the position of secretary was a TOE position. The POP was formed from the lower level OOPs, and was found at separate battalion and regimental levels. The secretary at the POP level was selected by members of the OOPs, and he held his position one year.

At division, brigade, district, and the GZP levels there were Party committees. At division level, a minimum of 40 percent of the Party members of each POP in the division assembled once a year at a division Party conference and elected the Party committee for the division. The Party committee then, by secret vote, elected a secretary from among their newly formed panel. At higher levels, lower Party organizations would similarly elect a Party committee, which in turn would elect a Party secretary. The position of secretary at all of the above-mentioned levels was a TOE position, and the rank for each position was as follows: separate battalion and regiment - major; division and brigade - lieutenant colonel; military district - colonel; GZP - brigadier general.

Secretaries were responsible for the organization, control, and functioning of the Party at their respective levels. The power and influence connected with their positions were respected and sometimes feared, and the secretary was considered a person apart. Since the position was basically filled by election from among the Party members, the secretary was usually well-liked. In addition to fulfilling his responsibilities concerned with the functioning of the Party, he received Party stamps from the next higher headquarters and distributed them among the Party members, collecting money in payment at the same time.

### (3) Instructor

There were eight types of instructors in the political field. The term instructor pertained to control and knowledge of Party functioning and politics, rather than to instruction, and was generally followed by the specialty of the individual in the political field. In 1957, however, it was directed that the titles Instructor and Senior Instructor be used at division and higher levels only, and in regiments, the Officers' Homes, and Class I and II officers' clubs, the title Instructor would still be followed by the political officer's specialty; for example, Instructor of Propaganda and Agitation. description of the various types of 50X1-HUM instructors:

#### (a) Senior Instructor and Instructor

The individual filling the Senior Instructor's or Instructor's slot had to be a theorist, historian, philosopher, and politician at the same time. He gave lectures at service schools and established courses, planned, organized, and controlled all political work at his level, advised and assisted the secretaries in performing their functions, and gave advice and direction during Party committee and POP meetings and to individuals requesting it. He directed and controlled the formation of the various groups in the units (see paragraphs 1c(1)(b)1c and e), and coordinated the operations of Party functionaries and political sections. He influenced all individuals in the service, Party and non-Party members as well, groups, gatherings, meetings, and positions. Because of the political influence connected with his position, all doors were open to him and the efficiency ratings of the unit and individuals many times depended on the type of individual fulfilling the Instructor's functions. The Instructor was an assistant to the Senior Instructor; both filled TOE positions from division level on up.

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## (b) Instructor for Party Records (Instruktor Ewidencji Partyjnej)

This individual maintained records pertaining to Party activities in the command to which he was assigned, and maintained a personnel file consisting of a folder for each Party member in the command. He distributed Party stamps for payment of dues among the units and collected money for them from the secretaries; then, according to schedule, he forwarded the collections to the next higher headquarters. This was a TOE position found with the Party committee at division, district, and the GZP levels, and at the political schools.

## (c) Instructor for Party Organization (Instruktor Pracy Organizacyjnej)

This was a TOE position at district and the GZP levels. The Instructor for Party Organization was concerned, as the name implies, with the organization of Party activities, and with organization of the various Party groups such as the Party committee, OOPs, and POPs.

## (d) Instructor for Propaganda and Agitation (Instruktor Propagandy i Agitacji)

As previously indicated, this was a TOE position at regimental level and in the Officers' Homes, and Class I and II officers' clubs. Political officers assigned to this field were responsible for implementing directives concerned with the dissemination of the various types of propaganda and working closely with the agitational groups in the units.

## (e) Instructor for Culture and Enlightenment (Instruktor Kulturalno-Oswiatowy)

This was a TOE position at division, brigade, district, and the GZP levels, and in the Officers' Homes, Class I and II officers' clubs. The political officers filling these positions were responsible for the organization of cultural and educational activities conducted in the units and clubs.

## (f) Instructor for Entertainment and Culture (Instruktor Artystyczno-Kulturalny)

This TOE position was found at division, district, and the GZP levels. The individuals filling this position were primarily responsible for arranging entertainment at the clubs at their respective levels, but they also gave lectures along cultural lines.

## (g) Instructor for Work with Families (female) (Instruktorka Pracy z Rodzinami)

This was a TOE position at division, district, and the GZP levels. For responsibilities of individuals filling this position see paragraph 1c(1)(b)1.e. of this report.

In addition to the instructors listed above, up to 1956 there had been a Youth Instructor (Młodzieżowi). This position was abolished in that year,

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(4) Inspector

This was a TOE position at the GZP level only; at one time it was found at corps level, but was dissolved when corps went out of existence. The responsibilities of inspectors are indicated in paragraph 1c(1)(a)3.

## (5) Lecture Specialist (Lektor)

The TOE positions for these specialists were found at district and the GZP levels. TOE positions had been in existence in the regiments up to 1953, and in the divisions up to 1955. The specialists performed functions in consonance with those outlined in paragraph 1c(1)(c)2.c.

## (6) Lecturer (Wykladowca)

This non-TOE position was filled by political and line officers who gave lectures in the propaganda-agitational field. For their responsibilities, see paragraph 1c(1)(b)1.b.

## (7) Director

This was a TOE position in the officer clubs from regiments through the GZP level, and in libraries from division through the GZP level. It also applied to the directors of the song and dance teams at district and ministry levels.

## (8) Journalist (Redaktor)

This was a TOE position at district and the GZP levels only. See paragraph 1c(1)(b)3 for the responsibilities of the journalists.

## (9) Photographer (Fotoreporter)

This TOE position was found at district and the GZP levels only; in many cases it was filled by capable enlisted men. The photographers took pictures, and wrote articles concerning them, for the district and GZP newspapers and illustrated publications.

## d. Acceptance

The acceptance of the political officer by contemporary line officers and enlisted men was based largely on the political officer's personality, approach to individuals and groups, and his ability to perform within his assignment. Previously, political officers were disliked intensely, but the general trend as of the latest date of Source's information was one toward acceptance and treatment of the political officer in a manner comparable to that accorded a line officer assigned to the command. The acceptance of the political officer depended largely on himself; if he efficiently carried out his responsibilities, approached and treated people with whom he came in contact in an acceptable manner, he was generally accepted. There was a standing joke among the Polish troops that all political officers were converted chaplains.

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## e. Comparison with Soviet Political Officers

[redacted] that Soviet political officers were fanatics, accepting blindly the Party ideology and statements made by the State. On the other hand, because of their national characteristics, Poles had to think things over and required convincing before accepting what was taught or professed. The Polish political officer, in comparison with the Soviet, had a much tougher job in gaining the confidence of personnel, convincing them of the righteousness of the Party line, and getting himself to be liked so that he might be considered one of them.

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## f. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the political officer and his Party-line teaching varied in the units, depending largely on his personal characteristics, and the methods he used. [redacted] the officers and enlisted men did not like politics and would run away from the subject if they could, and disliked being forced to accept blindly what was taught; however, the continual presentation of political matters over the years had its effect, and the system of political officers and their modus operandi was considered effective in the political indoctrination of the officers and enlisted men.

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## g. Weaknesses

Character and personality played the greatest roles in making a political officer effective, but, unfortunately, these were attributes which were not possessed by all officers. These weaknesses, combined with the lack of aptitude, fitness, or ability in many cases, and the fact that the soldiers did not like politics, were deterrents which had to be considered and resolved in order to increase the efficiency of promulgation of Communist ideology.

## h. Personal Convictions

About 15 percent of the political officers did not believe in what they were required to teach or were taught, and the remaining 85 percent did believe in the principles of Communism. [redacted] believe [redacted] that economic development and potential resulting from the system were great and ultimately would surpass the capitalist system, primarily because the former would not yield for any reason, even at the expense of heavy sacrifice on the part of the people, such as forced regimentation, jailing, continual suffering, and oppression. [redacted]

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[redacted] political officers had to believe in what they taught because they were citizens of Poland, and what they taught was Poland's doctrine, even though it included Communist principles. [redacted]

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## 1. Connection with Elections

[redacted] 12 days before parliamentary elections Polish political officers, along with line officers who were in good Party standing, were assigned temporary duty in designated districts for the purpose of campaigning for the Party's candidates in the coming election. Their mission was to visit the villages, towns, and cities in their assigned voting districts and speak at public meetings and gatherings in order to acquaint the local populace with the candidates who were running for election as delegates to the Polish Parliament. Military personnel were used for this purpose because the ordinary Polish peasant and worker had more faith and respect for the Polish officer than for the Polish politician.

During the election day, the officers were assigned to individual polling places for representation and show purposes. They did not actually oversee the election. The voting was supervised by civilian voting officials and members of the Citizen's Militia (Milicja Obywatelska - MO).

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[redacted] when the voting took place. [redacted] ballots were cast in a very orderly manner, after the polls were closed the ballot boxes were sealed and transferred to the county headquarters in KOZLE.

[redacted] After the ballots were counted, it was discovered that leaflets with Konrad Adenauer's picture and a caption which read "Unify Us with Germany" were put into the ballot boxes with the votes. In Kozle County alone there were 2,600 such leaflets, and [redacted] similar occurrences had also taken place in other counties. Although the voting officials were alarmed, they said it did not make any difference, since their candidates had been victorious anyway. This incident was never given any publicity.

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[redacted] each military district had approximately four delegates in the Polish Parliament. He was sure that the Silesian Military District had this number. Three delegates were usually designated beforehand by the GZP in WARSAW, and the fourth one was designated by the GZP at military district level.

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[redacted] the delegates were selected in advance so as not to cause any embarrassment to the Party after the election.

All military personnel were required to vote. The polls at military installations and caserns were open from 0600 to 2200 hours on the day of the election, and all personnel were checked off on a roster as they came through to cast their ballots. The voting was supervised by responsible military personnel and, after the polls were closed, the ballot boxes were transferred to designated county seats, where an official count of the ballots was made.

4. Political Indoctrination

## a. Literature

About 80 percent of the propaganda-agitation literature used in the political indoctrination of the armed forces was of Soviet origin, and the remainder was scrutinized by the Central Committee in MOSCOW.

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[redacted] some of the literature prepared by the University of Marxism and Leninism and issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR:

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Works of Marx, Lenin, and Stalin

Collective works in the fields of:

Philosophy

Political Economy

Capitalism and Socialism

History of the Worker Movement

Conduct of Political-Party Methods in the Armed Forces

Brochures:

Experiences in Party Work Among Soviet Armed Forces

Experiences in Propaganda-Agitational Work Among Soviet Armed Forces

Experiences in Cultural-Enlightenment and Entertainment Work Among Soviet Armed Forces

The Propaganda Agitator (printed in the Russian language)

Communist

Polish literature [redacted] which was scrutinized by the Central 50X1-HUM Committee of the Soviet Communist Party encompassed books on history, geography, maps, albums, and atlases. Included in this category were brochures which were furnished the Polish political officers giving lectures, to give as handouts to the officers and enlisted men. Each lecture was based on a manuscript issued to the political officer, which presented, word for word, the material to be taught; the manuscripts covered every conceivable subject to be taught. Instructional materials furnished the political sections were summaries devoted to methods of instruction, underlining which points should be stressed and giving references from which the information was taken. Additional materials furnished were charts, pictures, drawings, written speeches of higher Party officials, and special scripts on important subjects.

## b. Political Training Schedule

In the units, the attempt to insure adequate political indoctrination of troops was carried out by a secret monthly political training schedule prepared by the political section at division level, establishing the Party-political work for the entire division. On the basis of this schedule, all responsible sections and personnel connected with political work prepared their own schedules, which had to meet the requirements of their positions, and incorporated the points listed in the division schedule. The regiments and the division NCO schools furnished copies of their schedules to their subordinate units; the division headquarters battery (company), in addition to preparing its own schedule, was required to visit the political section for guidance, as were the directors of the officers' clubs. Shown as Annex C is [redacted] a sample political training schedule for the 11th AAA Div, listing typical subjects around which political 50X1-HUM instruction was centered.

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## c. Enlisted Men in the Political Field

Active participation of enlisted men in the political field was through their membership in agitational groups at platoon level, OOP, artistic teams, and the Dayroom (Reading Room) Council (Rada Swietlicowa). There were 8 to 10 EM agitators in each battery, who received a minimum of four hours instruction per week from the regimental political section regarding current political doctrine and methods of carrying out their responsibilities in the area of agitation among members of the unit. Further, each battery had a dayroom council composed of about seven EM who, with the assistance of the commander, planned forthcoming lectures and entertainment to be held during the evenings in the dayroom, and published a weekly schedule accordingly. Additional assistance was given the council by the club director and a designated regimental political officer during a 2-day meeting held once a month, on how best to plan and organize their activities, decorate the dayroom, and instill interest among the other members of the unit in order to insure maximum participation at the evening sessions. During these meetings, they were thoroughly briefed by the political officer on the latest Party-political events and policies.

Another active means of EM participation was through membership in the Communist Party. In each company-size unit there were 12 to 15 Party members, who were continually expected to discuss Party matters with the other men in the unit.

The main means of EM participation in the political field was in a passive sense. All members of the armed forces, whether they belonged to the Party or not, were continually exposed to Party-political indoctrination. Constant pressure was exerted by the Party secretary on Party matters, the instructor for propaganda and agitation on political matters, the club director on cultural-political matters, the agitators on propaganda matters, enlisted Party members on joining the Party, and political officers of higher headquarters in their presentations of special lectures. [redacted] of all the individuals exerting such pressures, the regimental political officers and the Party secretary were the most effective because the EM knew their gripes would be presented to the commander and possible changes made as a result.

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## d. Morale Factors and Attitudes

## (1) Religion

The program for elimination of chaplains and religion from the armed forces started in 1949, but since 1952 it has not been discussed and has been inactive. The Chaplain's Corps in the armed forces was established by regulation, but chaplains were not included in the TOE's. In the larger cities such as WARSAW, WROCLAW, POZNAN, BYDGOSZCZ, LODZ, and KRAKOW, there were garrison chapels, at which two or three chaplains were stationed; however, information about their location and the services held was not promulgated or discussed, and about 1 soldier in 10 knew they existed; consequently, attendance at the services was small.

Members of the military services attended church services, usually at civilian churches. Among the officer corps, the number attending was small because officers felt that their attendance would result in derogatory information (regarding their lack of cooperation with the Party) being included in their personnel files. Passes on Sunday usually started in the afternoon so that enlisted personnel would not have the opportunity to attend services. Religion was by-passed, never mentioned or discussed, and where possible, action was taken to deemphasize it. It was [redacted] to discuss the subject of whether or not God exists.

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Religion was mentioned only as a means to gain an end in the political system.

## (2) Pay and Allowances and Privileges

The pay and allowances<sup>7</sup> in the Polish armed forces were considered satisfactory, particularly since all grades received an approximate 500-zloty increase in April 1958.

Other factors increasing morale were the 7-days-leave granted each individual each year, and the reduction of the compulsory term of service to 2 years in the summer of 1958. Also, Party pressures had decreased since 1957, and a more liberal pass policy was put into effect, permitting about 80 percent of a unit to be away on weekends, and granting more frequent passes home in cases of need.

Food in troop messes and at clubs was considered sufficient and of good quality, and the only complaints registered in this area were the result of its poor preparation. Personnel ate regularly, and [ ] the majority of personnel entering the service improved in fitness. 50X1-HUM

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[ ] the greatest complaint among personnel was in the officer corps; it was based on the fact that their careers were not guaranteed, and, as a consequence, they had no security while in the service. [ ] everything considered, although the conditions were not as good as might be expected, the service offered a good life to the individual on the basis of greatly improved conditions since 1957.

## (3) Association with Soviets

Polish and Soviet personnel were allowed to associate and trade with each other, and meetings were arranged in an attempt to foster this association; however, neither was inclined to have much to do with the other. The association of the two groups was closer among the officers, who were seen frequently together at clubs and movies, and occasionally invited each other to their respective homes, but enlisted personnel usually went their separate ways.

Political aspects played little part in the association between the Poles and Soviets. The main influencing factors were education, personal characteristics, and behavior. Politics were not discussed at clubs or gatherings.

The Soviets were closely supervised by their officers, and since 1949 were so well-behaved and gracious there was in reality nothing to complain about. Most presented a good appearance, and there was no boisterousness when they appeared in public. However, this propriety and decorum were enforced and the result of close supervision, and the mutual feeling of both groups was that both would be better off if the Soviets returned to the USSR.

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## (4) Revolt

[ ] the possibility for future revolt in Poland was slim. The revolt in October 1956 was brought under control by storm battalions of the People's Militia (Milioja Obywatelska - MO), and established in important positions people with purported backgrounds common to the people of the land 50X1-HUM

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(Gomulka for example); more important, it introduced new reforms, which, combined with promises and proclamations of Poland's achievements, convinced the people of the right of the Communist system.

the feeling of confidence in Poland's leaders still prevailed, but not as strongly as in 1956; yet this feeling, combined with the knowledge that force would be again used should revolt break out, made such action improbable during peacetime.

Another consideration against the possibility of a revolt was the obvious result of the Hungarian Revolution. For the first 4 months following the revolution, the Party did not take a stand one way or the other with respect to the causes prompting it. In the military, all personnel contributed money to help the Hungarian people, and it was felt that the uprising began as the result of conditions comparable to those in Poland. It was ultimately stated by the Party that the revolution was the result of US and German agents, and WW II Fascist Hungarian officers being sent into Hungary to organize the people to strike back at Communism and establish capitalism, and that the USSR's strong intervention, through use of her armed forces, was to insure that such action did not take place.

(5) Attitude toward GOMULKA, the Party, and the USSR

When GOMULKA took over the control of the Polish government in October 1956, he was looked upon as a newly-found savior by approximately 80 percent of the military personnel. Twenty percent of the Polish officers, as a rule those of higher rank, of middle-class with a Soviet background, were staunch Stalinists who were not happy to see him come into power. When GOMULKA had ROKOSSOVSKY recalled to the USSR and subsequently appointed SPYCHALSKI as Minister of National Defense, 40 percent of the Polish officers resented the move because of their loyalty to ROKOSSOVSKY, whom they admired as a soldier and commander. Seasoned officers resented SPYCHALSKI's appointment because he was a politician and not a line officer. After Lieutenant General Jerzy BORDZILOWSKI, upon whom ROKOSSOVSKY had greatly relied, was made deputy defense minister, this feeling changed because he was considered one of the better-informed officers in the Polish armed forces and, in essence, their planning and guiding head.

A year after GOMULKA had been in office, the same approximate 80 percent of the military were dissatisfied with him. They claimed that the only thing changed in the Polish regime was the leader and the tactics, and that GOMULKA's only accomplishment was to confuse the people temporarily while still following the same devious road as his predecessors.

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About 95 percent of the higher ranking officers in the Polish army were Party members for reasons of personal gain. As members of the Party, their road was open to higher positions which non-Communists could not conceivably attain. A number of specialist officers, particularly those in the medical and technical fields, were not worried about Party affiliations, since they knew only too well that there was always a need in the army for their type of skills. Some of the old pre-WW II line officers were also non-Party, but this group was a minority and was diminishing yearly because of retirement for old age and medical reasons. The military's political aims were concentrated on the young officers and enlisted men in an attempt to indoctrinate them properly and convince them of the rightness of the Party's aims and system; but this group lacked the proper political enthusiasm and was remiss in the payment of Party dues.

[redacted] after GOMULKA came into power many officers voluntarily turned in their Party membership cards and requested to be released from the Party. There was no major effort made to retain these officers in the service. Those who successfully obtained releases were finished with their military careers, and those who remained were bypassed for promotion and could never expect to attain higher positions. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] 80 percent of the military personnel felt that the Party was a thorn in their sides and the time spent on Party activities was just so much personal time wasted, which could have been put to better use elsewhere.

[redacted] the Poles strongly disliked and distrusted the Soviets and there was no possibility of the existence of fraternal feeling toward the USSR. [redacted] the brotherly love shown by the government hierarchy toward the Soviets was superficial and definitely not shared by the Polish troops and people in general. 50X1-HUM

[redacted] the future feeling toward the USSR depends on the development of the world situation. On the basis which existed when he left Poland, no change could have been expected since there was no other road to follow than the one GOMULKA had established, that of subserviently returning to the status existing before his ascension to power. The constructive sharp reforms brought by changes in the system were softened, and in many instances removed, when the populace got enthusiastic and excited. The individual in Poland remained unchanged - proud and desiring respect, personal liberties and freedom; however, the aim of Communism also remained unchanged, that of ultimately converting and absorbing each individual into its system. 50X1-HUM

#### e. Influence and Effectiveness of the Political System

The influence of the political system and its effectiveness among the armed forces could be viewed from two perspectives. First, in deference to the aspirations of the leaders and the aims of the Communist system, the individual soldier received a better education and political outlook, and, consequently, the continual pressures exerted were 70 percent effective in instilling the principles of Communism. The system tended to strengthen each officer and gave him a higher position in life and society, and afforded all personnel such advantages as culture, medical aid, and care for the family. From the other standpoint, however, the education provided opened the soldier's eyes to the fallacy of the Communist system. The knowledge of greater freedom in the West was a continual obstacle and, although conditions were improving, there was

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still too little money, too much work, and a lack of equipment, much of which was received from the USSR as unwanted items. Other factors detrimental to the system were the lack of an assured career for the officers, the poor quality of many political officers, and the continual compulsory political instruction, which was boring and unwanted by most personnel.

f. Troop Information

The sources of troop information varied, and consisted of the political officer, prepared broadcasts, newspapers and periodicals, and the radio.

The main basis of troop information, besides the scheduled lectures, was articles and commentaries specially prepared by the GZP, which were broadcast over a loudspeaker system established in troop quarters, messhalls, dayrooms, and unit areas. The information was transmitted over this net at scheduled times throughout the entire day.

Every other day for a half hour after breakfast and before duty began, a political officer was scheduled to explain a selected newspaper topic, tying it in with the over-all world picture. Also, as previously mentioned, organized hours were held in the dayrooms during the evening, and much information was passed on during these periods.

A great deal was expected of each individual in obtaining his own information about his country and world events, primarily through newspapers and periodicals. The main newspaper made available to troops was the Soldier of Freedom (Zolnierz Wolnosci), published daily in WARSAW. Officers were compelled to subscribe to the paper at the rate of 5 zlotys and 20 groszy monthly, the money being automatically deducted from their pay by the unit finance office, and the newspaper was delivered daily to the officer at the unit. Regarding its availability to enlisted personnel, copies were delivered to the dayrooms and subscription costs were paid from the unit's political fund.<sup>8</sup> For other publications made available to personnel, see paragraph 1c(1)(b)<sub>3</sub> of this report.

As previously mentioned, the dayrooms were equipped with radios, which, although of limited range, furnished the enlisted personnel information about internal affairs in Poland. A few officers, however, had their own radio sets in their family quarters and BOQ's. Those who were fortunate enough to afford such sets listened to the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and BBC broadcasts, even though such listening was prohibited. An officer caught listening was brought before the Party committee (even though he may not have been a Communist) and the matter was looked into. No punishment or fine was ever rendered, but the officer was given   "a fatherly talk." Before 1957 he would have been accused of activities against the State and Party and would have been jailed.

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[redacted] copies of all pro-Western broadcasts were sent to all political sections at division and higher levels by PAP (Polish Press Agency) with instructions that any information used was to be slanted so as not to put Poland, the USSR, or any other Soviet-Bloc country in a bad light, and [redacted] Communism was to be exemplified as the superior system and the only road to follow. 50X1-HUM

g. Political Reliability of Officers and Enlisted Men

Externally, an enlisted man was subject to regulations and was required to obey and carry out instructions, and these requirements he usually performed in a creditable manner. Internally, however, [redacted] the enlisted man was an enemy of the political system of Communism and of the Party. Political instruction went in one ear and out the other. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

[redacted]

In a like manner, the officer was also thankful for the education the system offered and for the impetus it gave his individual career; on the other hand, he was extremely critical of the system, and even hated it. He openly spoke against it, and felt secure because he had the support of the majority of his comrades, who felt the same way. Of the approximate 70 percent of the officers who were Party members, about 80 percent did not believe in the Party or its ideology; they attended meetings because they were required to, and although they sat and listened, they took no active part. They belonged to the Party to assure stability of their careers and obtain money to support their families.

The political support that might be expected of the officers and enlisted men was problematical, but on the basis of their inclusion in three groups, it would appear that they could not be politically relied upon by the existing regime. The first of these three groups contained personnel who were nationalistic in that they did not lean to the right or the left, got along with everyone, and would have preferred keeping all problems internal; the second of these groups was the pro-Western group, which contained about 80 percent of the personnel in the armed forces. They were sympathetic toward the West, and did not like and had no trust in either the Soviets or the Germans. The third group consisted primarily of soldiers who were born, educated, brought up, or had families in the Soviet Union.

Another factor tending towards a conclusion of political unreliability was that there were too many inconsistencies noted by personnel in what was taught during lectures and what really existed or took place. As an example, facts about the USSR taught by political officers were not believed because too many soldiers had been in the Soviet Union previously and knew the true conditions existing there. This same area of inconsistency included religion. Most Poles had a Catholic upbringing and were well founded in their beliefs, and statements and actions in contradiction to what was believed or known, with the intent of ultimately eliminating religion, undermined the political system and assisted in establishing political unreliability of armed forces personnel.

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## Comments:

1. The officers in this section were responsible for culture and enlightenment activities in the officer clubs and dayrooms in the military district. The subsections shown on Annex B-2 existed [redacted]

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2. The enlisted men in the Classified Records Office were the only enlisted men assigned to the political administration at military district level.

3. [redacted] there were three 50X1-HUM categories of officer clubs in the Polish armed forces. [redacted] the Officers' Home (dom oficerski) was considered a 1st-category club, [redacted] third-class clubs were found at regimental and comparable levels. [redacted]

[redacted] there was a Central Officers' Home of the Polish National Army in WARSAW, and Officers' Homes in the Air Force, Navy, and at large army installations, such as military district headquarters. In addition to the Officers' Homes, there were category I, II, and III officer clubs, and an officers' club at regimental level. The category of club supporting a unit was determined by the size of the unit and its proximity to cultural, social, and entertainment centers. As a general rule, a lower category club was assigned to a unit located near a large city which possessed these centers, but sometimes, on the basis of the number of officer personnel for whom the club would provide, determinations were made that category I or II clubs were justified and should be assigned. On the other hand, although there was an absence of these centers in many of the smaller cities, the size or number of nearby units was so small that a category I or II club was not justified, and consequently, a category III club was assigned.

[redacted] the following categories of clubs existed in the cities shown: Category I - POZNAN, KRAKOW, LODZ, ZAGAN; Category II - OPOLE, KATOWICE, BRZEG, CZESTOCHOWA; Category III - LESNO. 50X1-HUM

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4. [redacted]

5. Provisions also existed for acceptance of cryptographic officers (szyfrowy), who were required to possess the same qualifications as political officers. Only these two categories of officers were accepted at the academy. 50X1-HUM

8. [redacted] a political fund was established at all levels from regiment up. It was to be used for the purchase of newspapers and publications, theater and movie tickets, decorations, and items not issued through normal channels. It was also used to pay costs of parties for enlisted personnel and the professors hired to give lectures. The yearly fund allocation in a division was from 18,000 to 22,000 zlotys per regiment, 12,000 for the NCO School, 8,000 for the division headquarters element, 5,000 for the political section, and about 220,000 zlotys for the garrison club.

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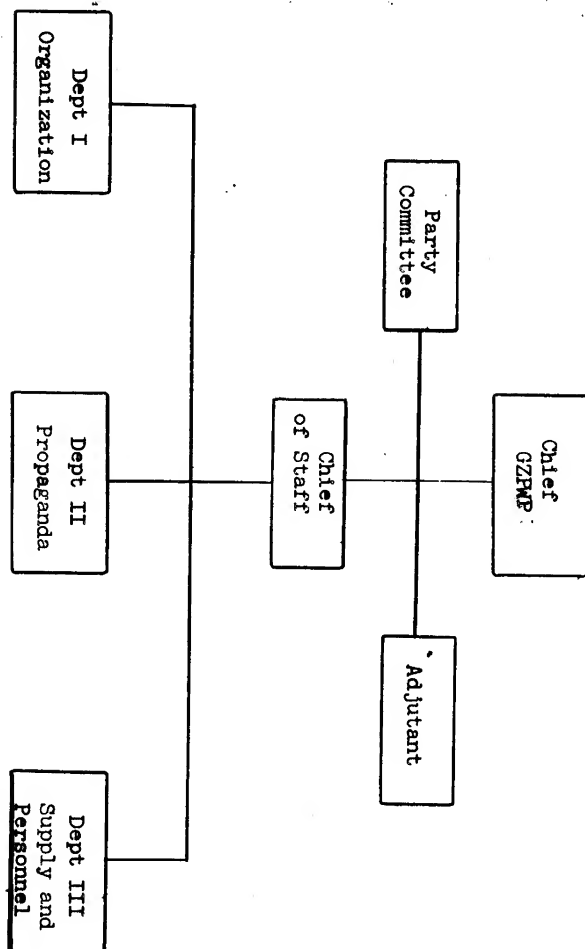
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ANNEX A

ORGANIZATION OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION IN POLAND



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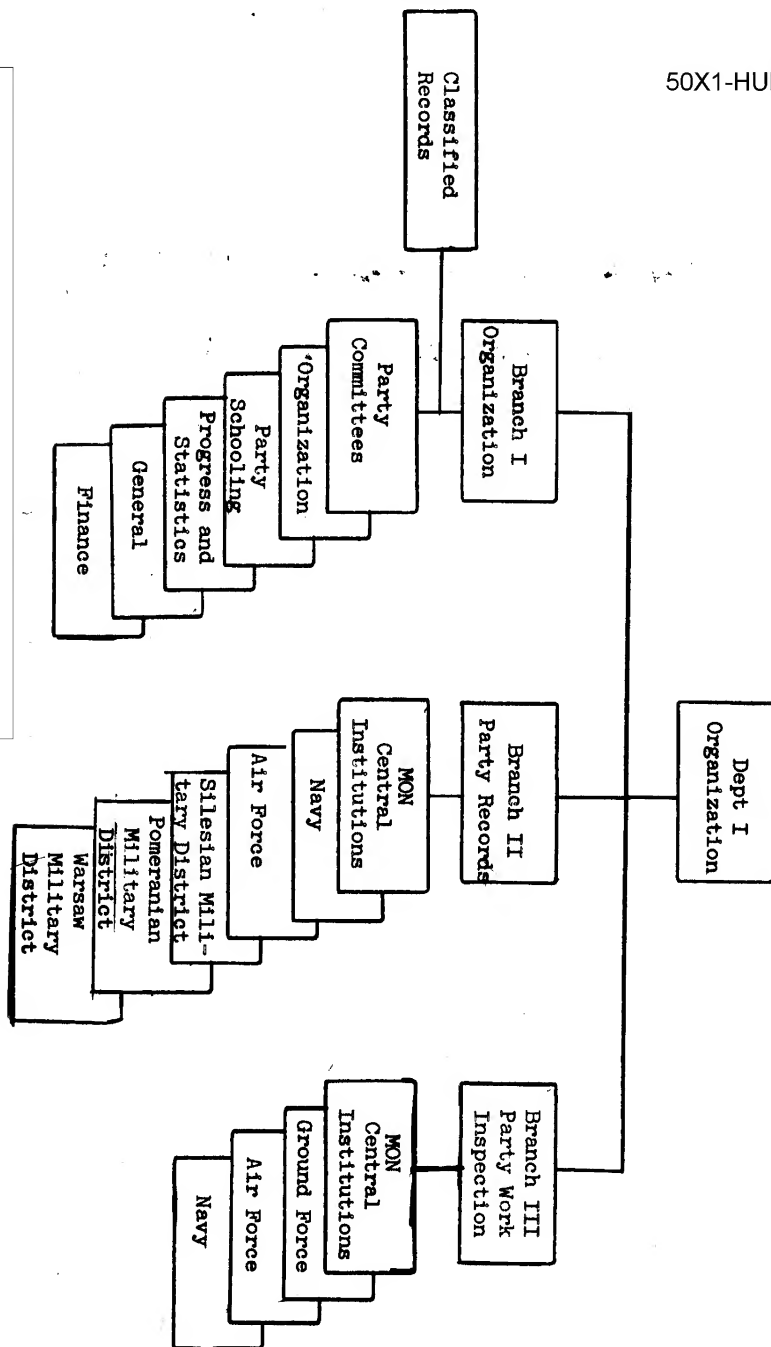
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ANNEX A-1

ORGANIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION IN POLAND



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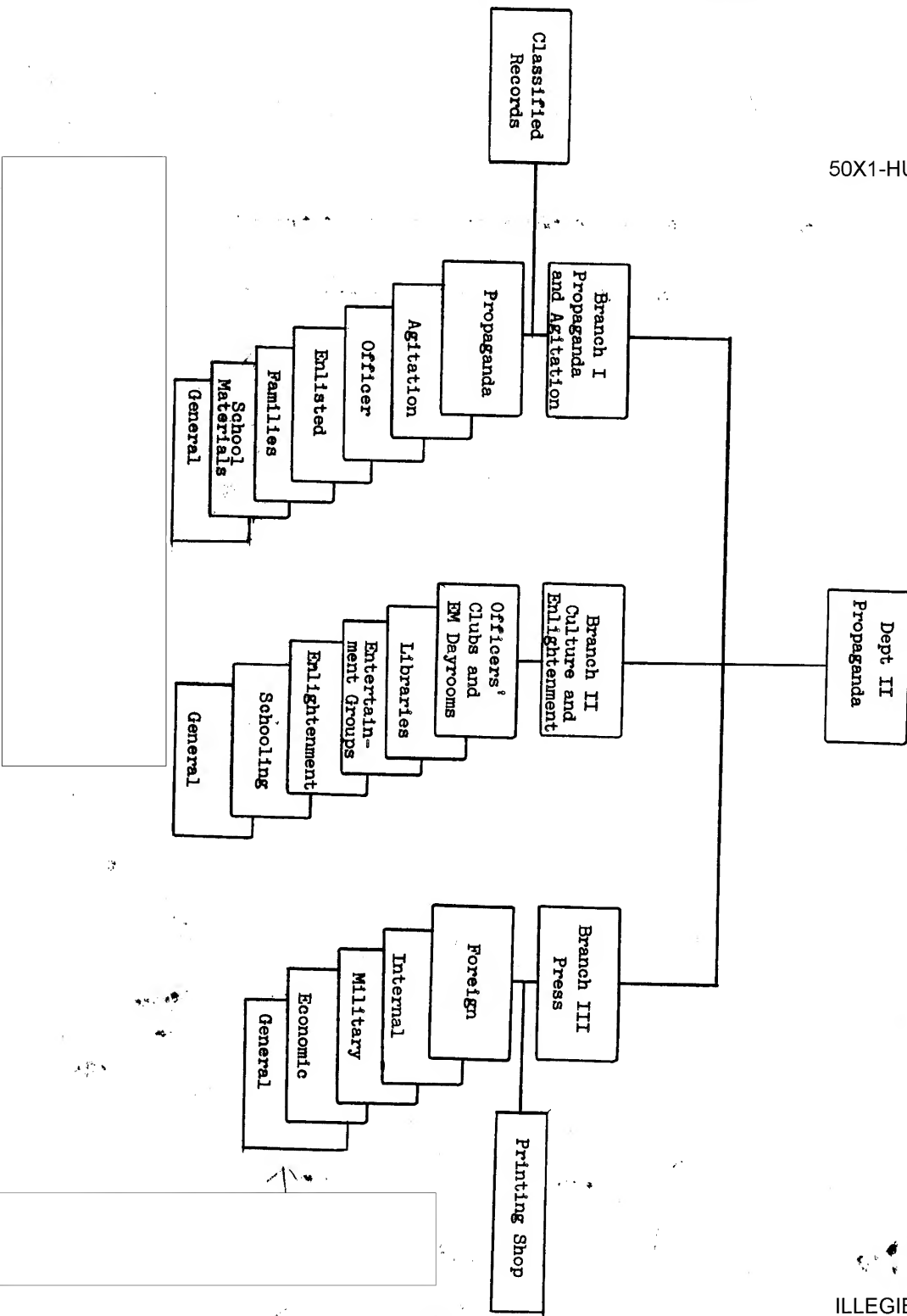
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ANNEX A-2

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION IN POLAND



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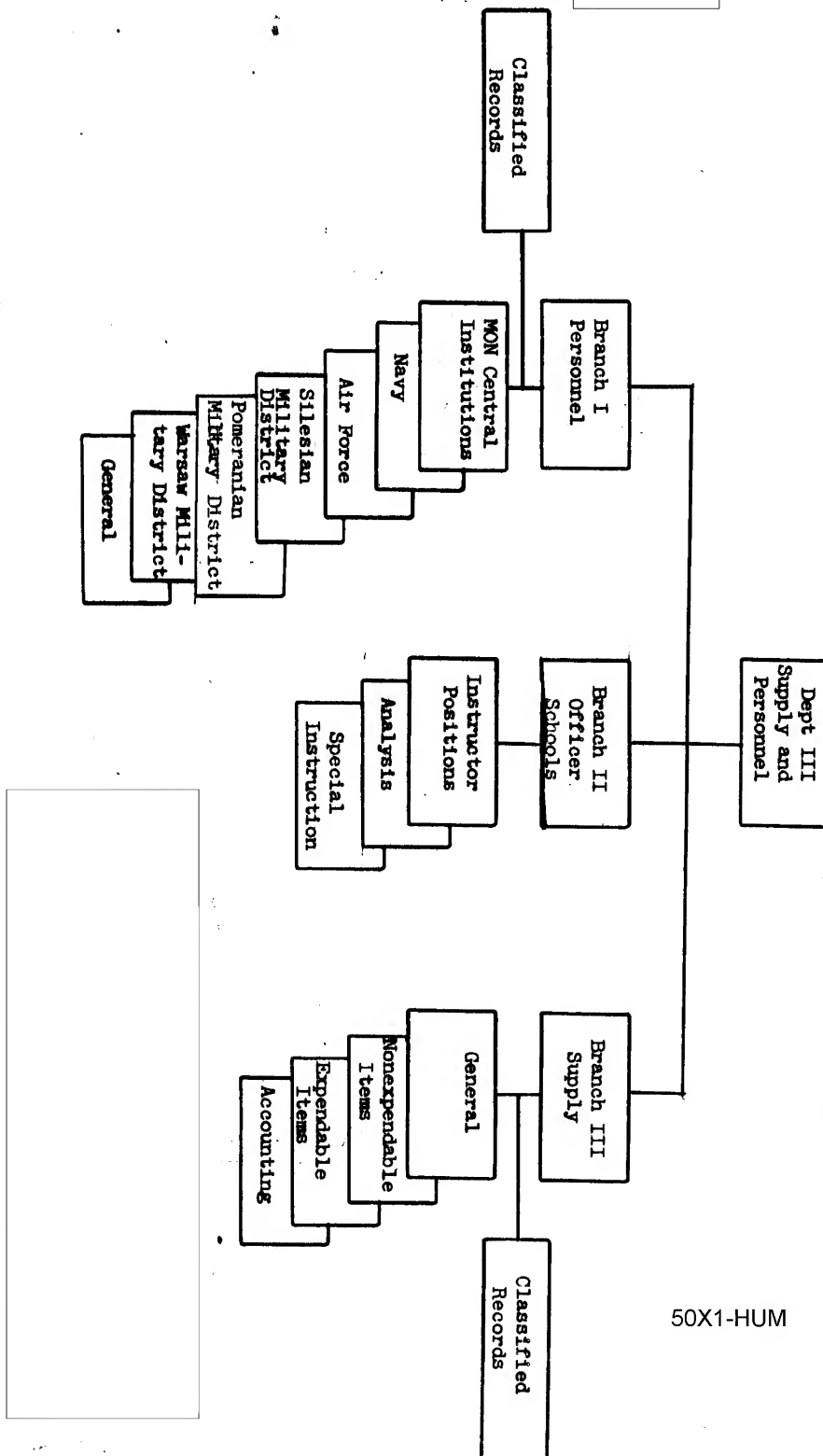
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ANNEX A-3  
ORGANIZATION OF THE SUPPLY AND PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION IN POLAND



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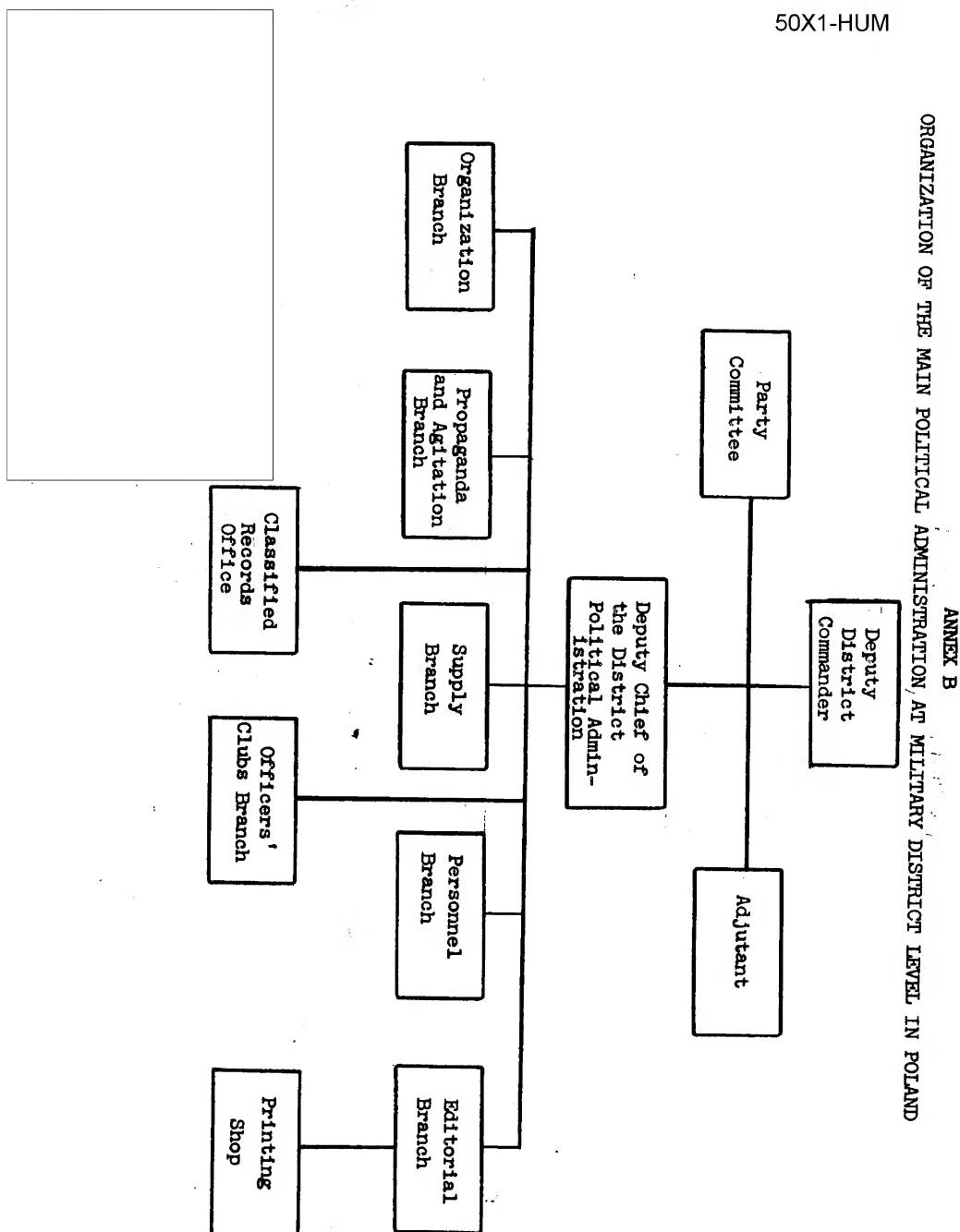
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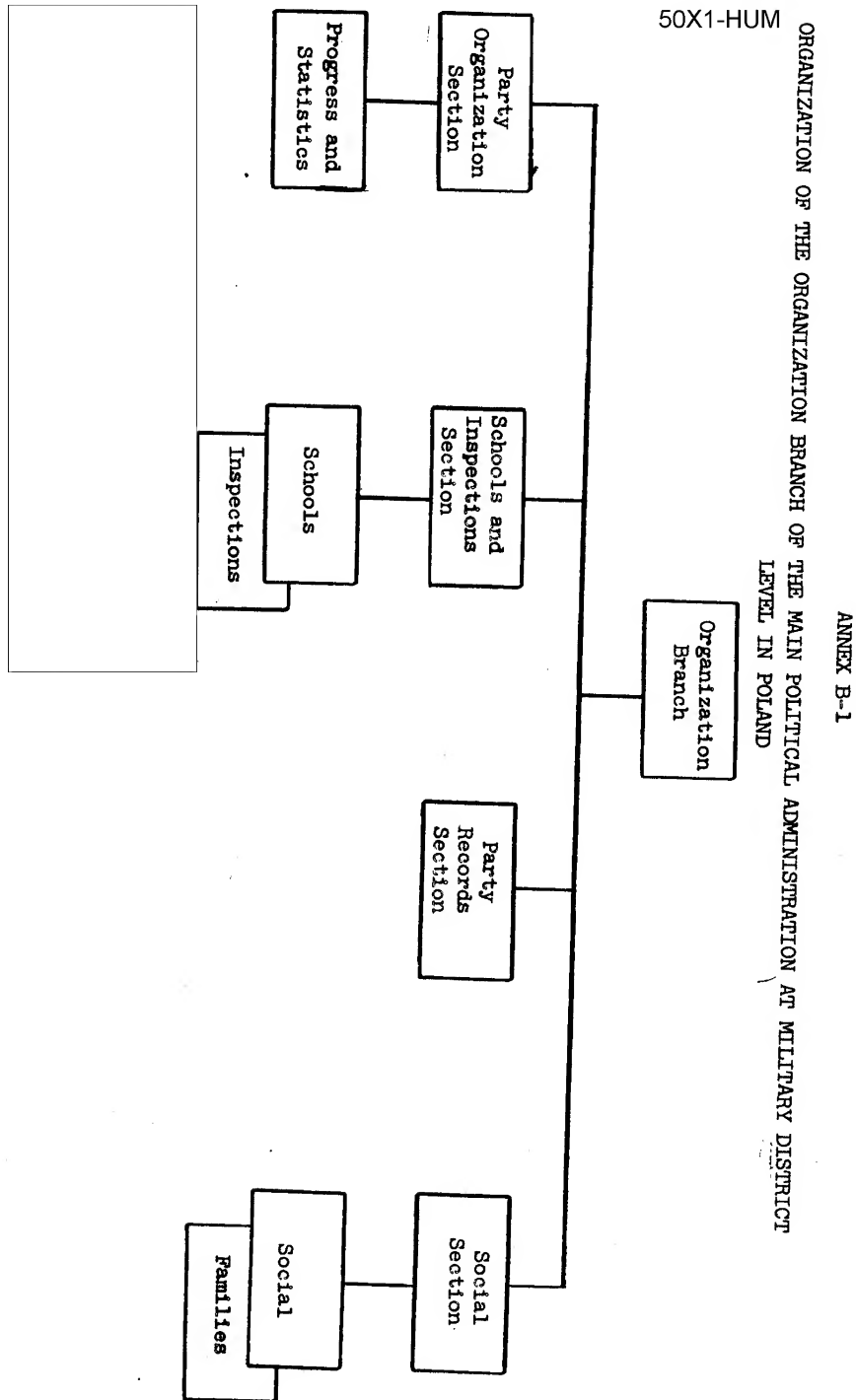


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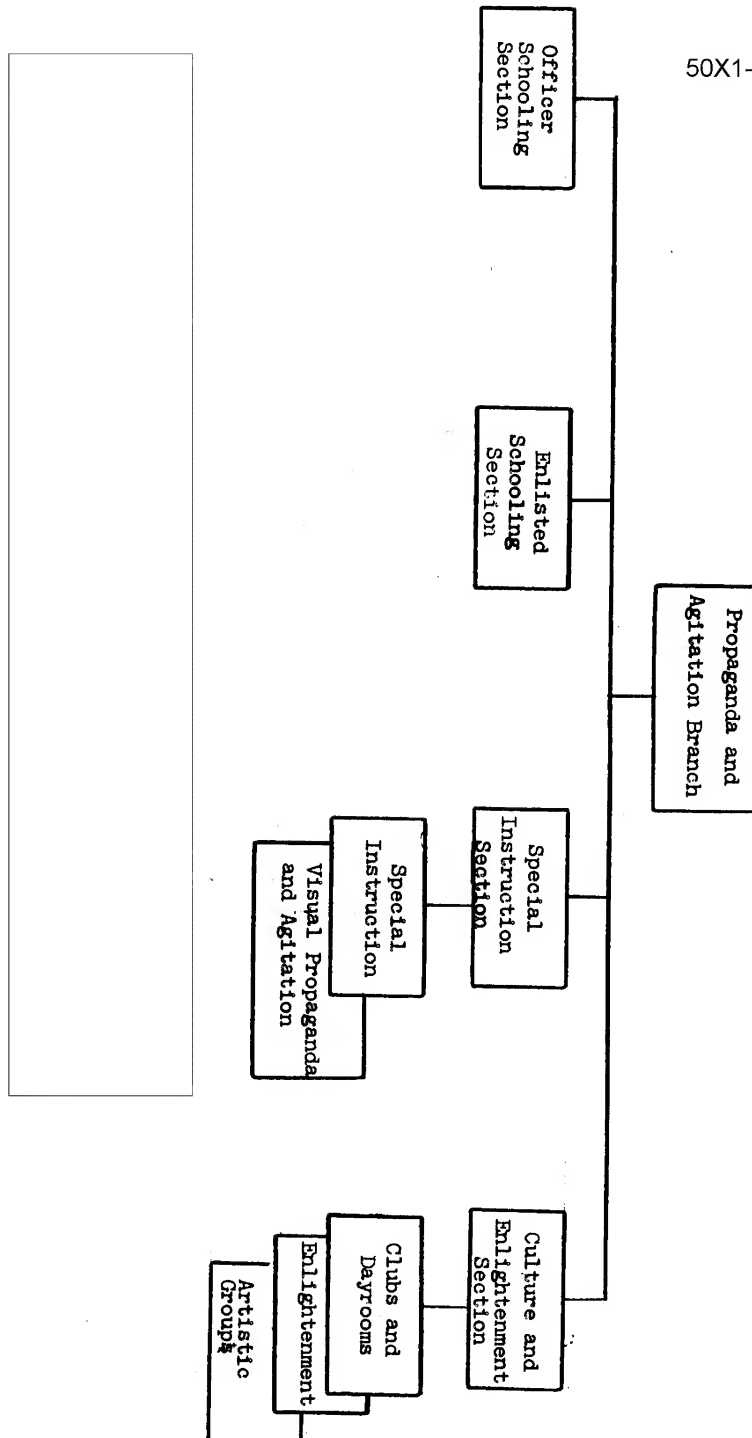
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ANNEX B-2  
ORGANIZATION OF THE PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION BRANCH OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION AT MILITARY  
DISTRICT LEVEL IN POLAND



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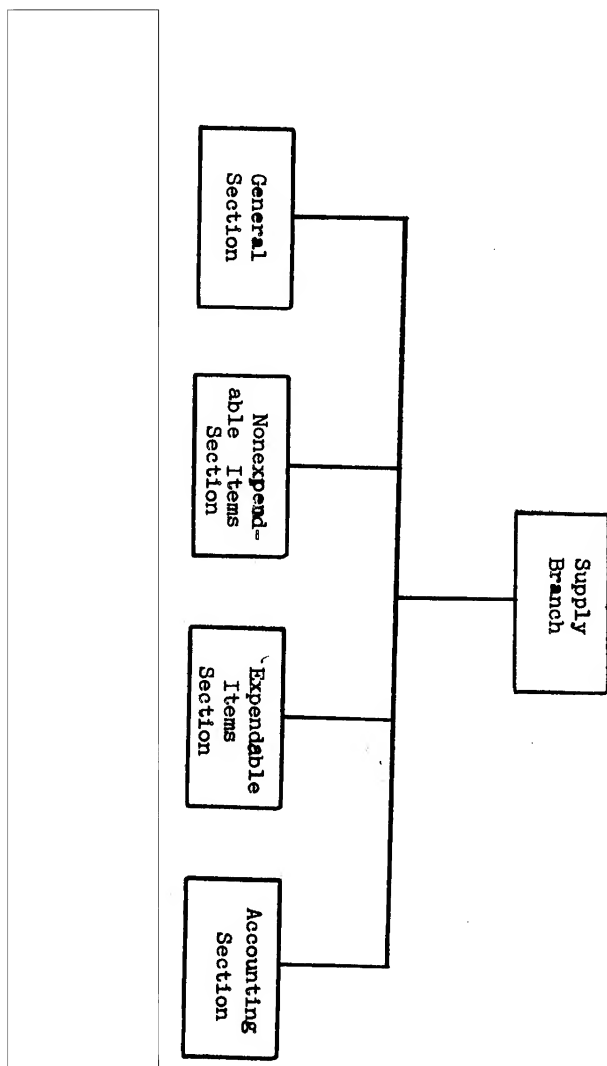
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ANNEX B-3

ORGANIZATION OF THE SUPPLY BRANCH OF THE MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION AT MILITARY  
DISTRICT LEVEL IN POLAND



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ANNEX C

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EXAMPLE OF A POLITICAL TRAINING SCHEDULE USED BY A DIVISION IN POLAND

Approved:

SECRET

Division CO's  
signature, date,  
and unit designation

Registration  
control number

PLAN

Party-Political Work for the Month of July

During the month of July, the Political Section in the area of Party-political work envisages the following main problems:

I In the area of national politics and political pressures:

1. The further armament of Western-German armies with atomic weapons.
2. Artificial provocations of focal points of war, as in the case of BERLIN.
3. Torpedoing of all steps leading to the resolution of the situation in Geneva and leading to mutual confidence in eliminating war.

II In the area of internal politics:

1. Further grouping of individuals' political status as a result of recent achievements in the political and economic fields, on the basis of:
  - a. Recent resolutions of the member nations of the Warsaw Pact.
  - b. Rent regulation and pensions.
  - c. Bringing into operation the Warsaw-Katowice electric railroad line.

III In the areas of training, politics, morale, and discipline, work should be based on such factors as:

1. Regulation of pay for career NCOs.
2. Stabilization of rights for armed forces personnel.
  - a. Leaves each year
  - b. Arrangement of family care
3. Rearmament of the army with new equipment.
  - a. New guns
  - b. Tanks, new types
  - c. Vehicles
  - d. Light machine guns
  - e. Better army clothing

With respect to the above in the propaganda-political area, the Political Section plans:

I Training

1. Lectures

- a. On the 9th, under the title "False Politics of American Diplomacy and Individuals Giving the German Army Atomic Weapons."

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- b. On the 16th, under the title "In Whose Interest Is the Prohibition of the Development of Controversial Problems During Negotiation"?
- c. On the 22nd, under the title "Peaceful Union and Establishment of Democratic and Neutralized Germany, Vital to the Interest of National Poland and the One Road to Bypass War."

## 2. Instruction

Political information for enlisted personnel will be taught 30 minutes before duty begins on the days nothing else is scheduled, and the information subjects will be selected according to the main problems of this plan.

- 3. The political programs will be carried out according to the related subjects issued by the GZFWP.
- 4. On the 17th there will be a meeting of agitators at division level at the BRZEG garrison club. Subject: Work of the Agitator in the Light of the Complicated International Situation and the Threat of an Atomic War.
- 5. On the 22nd there will be a gathering of tactical-political leaders in the BRZEG garrison club. Agenda:
  - a. Lecture: "Warsaw Pact Guarantees Sovereignty of the Polish State."
  - b. Presentation of awards.
  - c. Dinner
  - d. Meeting the civic leaders and civilians
  - e. Dance
- 6. On the 26th and 27th, consultations in the area of Economic History for students of Party schooling.
- 7. Press information for the division staff, 14th and 22nd of the month.

## II In the area of Party organization work:

- 1. Party Committee meeting each Friday of the week from 1000 to 1500 hours.
- 2. POP meeting for staff members: 18th and 29th of the month.
- 3. Control and basic assistance in the organization for POP in the regiments:
  - a. POP 84th Regt: 15th and 17th of the month. Capt \_\_\_\_\_ will preside.
  - b. POP 93rd Regt: 20th and 21st of the month. Major \_\_\_\_\_ will preside.
  - c. POP of the division NCO School and Hq Btry: 15th and 16th of the month. Lieutenant \_\_\_\_\_ will preside.
- 4. Party schooling, group study: 26th and 27th of the month.

## III In the area of culture and enlightenment:

- 1. Display in the garrison club on the theme, History and Development of Equipment in the Polish National Army. 15th to 20th of the month.
- 2. On the 16th, theater and dramatic group presentation of "Ziemi Opolskiej"
- 3. On the 23rd Sunday, field trip to the former German concentration camp in OSWIECIM.

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IV In the area of personal allowances, discipline, and morals:

1. From the 8th to the 10th of the month, a check of discipline and quarter-master administrative procedures to insure order and tighter control.
2. Intervention of the district commander in matters concerned with the expeditious assignment of officer family quarters.

V Inspections and assistance:

1. 29th and 30th, 93rd Regt: Major \_\_\_\_\_, Capt \_\_\_\_\_.
2. 24th and 25th, NCO School and 84th Regt: Major \_\_\_\_\_, Capt \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Meetings: \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Deputies of regiments and instructors of propaganda; in the Political Section on the 19th.
  - b. Secretaries of POPs: at the Party committee section's office on the 19th.
  - c. Line schooling for political officers on the 5th and 6th.

Printed in 5 copies

- 1 - File
- 2 - 84th Regt
- 3 - 93rd Regt
- 4 - NCO School
- 5 - District Political Department

Deputy to the Commander  
for Political Matters

(Signature)

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Typist's name  
Name of officer preparing plan  
Copy Number  
Date written  
Registration number

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